

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONOR THE FLAG AND THE
CONSTITUTION**HON. DAVID E. SKAGGS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, as a veteran and an American, I am proud to introduce on behalf of myself and the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. KOLBE], a resolution expressing the strong support of the Members of Congress and the American people for what the flag represents: freedom, tolerance, and the right to dissent.

Mr. Speaker, the overwhelming majority of our fellow citizens agree that the American flag, as the symbol of our Nation's values and ideals, commands the deepest respect from all Americans. The flag commands that respect because it stands for a people and a Government strong enough to tolerate diversity and to protect the rights even of those expressing unpopular views. Our strong commitment to these values, not the colors and design of our flag, is what makes our country unique and an international model for freedom.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution reaffirms the place of honor the American flag rightly holds in our country and states that respect for the flag should not be mandated, especially at the expense of the first amendment guarantee of free speech.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring our flag and the Constitution by cosponsoring this resolution.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing legislation to ensure that Federal grants for the hiring of local police officers actually result in a net increase in the number of "cops on the beat." I invite all of my colleagues to become a cosponsor of this important legislation.

As a former sheriff, I know that in too many instances Federal law enforcement grants result in the hiring of numerous generals but not enough foot soldiers at the local level. In other words, policing grant funds are often spent hiring clerks and dispatchers instead of hiring uniformed officers to patrol the streets. Specifically, my bill amends the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to ensure that Federal funds made available to hire or rehire law enforcement officers are used to produce a net gain in the number of law enforcement officers who perform nonadministrative public safety services—i.e. street cops.

This legislation will ensure that Federal police grants will result in a real increase in the number of street officers on the street fighting crime.

My bill is identical to an amendment I successfully attached to legislation in the 104th Congress, H.R. 728, the "Local Government Law Enforcement Block Grants Act," which was passed by the House in February 1995, and the fiscal year 1996 Commerce, Justice, and State appropriations bill. Unfortunately, both bills were vetoed by the President. By reintroducing that amendment in bill form, an important crime-fighting measure can be debated without the politics associated with an all-encompassing bill.

Mr. Speaker, let's help give our communities a fighting chance against crime by putting more police officers on the street than more clerks behind desks. I ask that all members take a look at my bill and give it their full support.

SUPPORT HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION
36: PROTECT THE LIVES
AND WOMEN AND CHILDREN
WORLD-WIDE**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Joint Resolution 36, The International Family Planning Funds Release. This Resolution will right a wrong which Congress created in the high-politics of the fiscal year 1997 Omnibus Appropriations Act. It will also unquestionably help to save the lives of countless women and children world-wide. We have no choice but to support it. This resolution does nothing more than move forward the release date of international family planning funds from July 1, 1997 to March 1, 1997. This resolution does nothing less than save lives.

Unfortunately, there are some among us who have chosen to turn this humble proposal into a battle-ground for one of the most controversial of all policy issues—abortion. It is true that abortion has a role in this resolution. That role can be found in the fact that family planning unequivocally reduces the use of abortion world-wide. The use of abortion is closely associated with the unmet need for contraception and with reliance on less effective methods. Therefore, abortion rates are lower in countries where more effective modern methods of contraception are used than in countries where less effective methods predominate. International family planning funds are used to provide women with access to these much needed alternatives. When women are provided with alternatives to abortion, they use abortion less. This fact has

been shown again and again world-wide. In addition, as I am sure all of my colleagues are well-aware, the 1973 Helms amendment of the Foreign Assistance Act prohibits the use of any U.S. funds for abortion, or to motivate or coerce any person to practice abortion. Therefore, this resolution is about the reduction of abortion, not its funding.

Most importantly, however, this resolution is about saving the lives of women and children throughout the developing world. According to CARE, family planning is as essential to saving the lives of infants as their programs in immunization, respiratory disease, diarrheal disease, and nutrition. They have also found the scientific evidence to be overwhelming that a woman's ability to space births and avoid births at the extremes of the reproductive years is critical to ensuring child survival. In fact, in many countries, birth spacing alone could prevent one in five infant deaths.

Nearly 600,000 women die each year from pregnancy-related causes—leaving thousand of motherless children behind. Another 18 million women suffer long-term reproductive health complications that are excruciatingly painful and often result in life-long disabilities. According to UNICEF, just meeting the existing demand for family planning in the developing world would reduce unintended pregnancies by one-fifth, which would be expected to prevent at least 100,000 of the 600,000 annual maternal deaths. Put simply, family planning saves lives. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to be on the side of life and vote in favor of House Joint Resolution 36. I can not imagine a better use of this institution's time. Thank you.

IS THE INS MAKING CRIMINALS
OUT OF BOATERS ON THE
GREAT LAKES?**HON. STEVE C. LATOURETTE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to correct what are well intentioned, but misguided efforts by the United States Immigration Service to protect our northern border against United States citizens who seek to reenter their own country after a recreational boating trip to Canada.

In what appears to be a federally sanctioned game of waterway robbery, the Immigration Service is willing to forego its legal obligation to inspect all vessels returning to a United States port from Canada, if boaters are willing to pay a \$16 per-person per-year fee to purchase what is known as the I-68 Canadian border boat landing permit. The I-68 permit program was established in 1963 but was not implemented nationally until a few years ago when Congress directed Federal agencies to

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

begin charging a fee for some Federal programs. I have no problem with the fee-for-service approach, but where is the service? The I-68 program would have the boating public paying the INS for the convenience of not inspecting their boats. Its difficult to see how this approach would stem the tide of illegal immigration from Canada on recreational boats, a problem that is not well documented by the INS—if it exists at all. We do know, however, that the number of United States boaters visiting Canada from the Great Lakes Region fell 15 percent in the 1996 boating season to just under 40,000. This translates to a loss of over \$2 million in destination spending on the Canadian side and it can be assumed that similar losses were felt on the United States side.

It is unfortunate that the recreational boating community has been on the receiving end of some bad Government programs in recent years. We all remember the ill-conceived boat luxury tax, the FCC radio license fee and, most recently, the marine diesel fuel tax. Fortunately, all of these programs have been repealed by Congress as detrimental to boater safety and the recreational boating economy. However, once again, we are making it harder and more expensive for law-abiding boaters to enjoy their chosen form of recreation.

I must confess that with all the complex issues to address during my first term in Congress, somehow the news of illegal immigrants cruising across the Great Lakes in power and sailboats got by me. Ever mindful of the problems experienced on our southern borders and with images of illegal aliens coming into Florida, California, and Texas burned into my memory. I rushed down to one of the many marinas in my congressional district, the Ash-tabula Yacht Club. That Sunday afternoon was a sight to behold. Sure enough I witnessed 40 some sailboats boldly entering the harbor.

At this point the threat became clear to me. Men, women, and children of United States and Canadian descent docked their sailboats and came ashore illegally. They were barely clothed, sunburned, and the worst among them were telling lies.

While I expected the illegal aliens to soon depart to taste freedom in the interior of our great country—they did not. In fact, the next morning I watched as all of the Canadian boats returned to Port Stanley, ON. Soon after, I spoke to the Commodore of the Yacht Club to see how long this problem has been going on. He informed me that it was the 25th year of the Lake Erie International Sailboat Race between Ashtabula, OH and Port Stanley, ON, and that he hoped to expect the same type of trouble next season. I use this example to illustrate that things are not always as they appear. The cash registers of our local harbor district depend on this annual visit from our Canadian friends to help one of our most promising growth industries—recreational boating.

Mr. Speaker, my bill would not eliminate the I-68 program, but would simply allow recreational boaters the option of using their U.S. passport in lieu of the I-68 permit in order to reenter the United States after returning from Canadian shores. It seems to me that if a U.S. passport is good enough for all other international travel purposes, that boaters traveling

between two friendly countries should also be afforded this option.

I would like to thank Representative STUPAK and my colleague from Ohio, Representative TRAFICANT for being original cosponsors of this simple yet important piece of legislation. I look forward to enthusiastic support from all Members of Congress bordering the Great Lakes.

JAMES GILMORE NAMED 1997 PERSON OF THE YEAR BY THE COUNCIL OF SOUTH SIDE ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATIONS

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friend, Mr. James Gilmore, on being named one of the 1997 Persons of the Year by the Council of South Side Advancement Associations.

In selecting Jim, the Council of South Side Advancement is honoring a man who has done much to maintain and improve the quality of life of Milwaukee's south side. Through his 25 years of service to the south side of Milwaukee, Jim has made a direct impact on the lives of many people in our community.

Over the years Jim Gilmore has shown his dedication to his neighborhood through his involvement in several community organizations. In addition, to serving on the board of directors for the Council of South Side Advancement, Jim is also involved in the Bay View Business Association, the South Side Scholarship Foundation, and St. Veronica's Parish. His involvement in these organizations demonstrates his desire to help his fellow neighbor in any way he can.

Jim Gilmore has clearly set an example for our entire community. I join the Council of South Side Advancement Associations in commending him on his outstanding dedication to the south side of Milwaukee, and I congratulate him on being named one of the 1997 Persons of the Year.

THE ACCREDITATION ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1997

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill that requires all Medicare-accrediting organizations to hold public meetings and to ensure that at least a third of the governing board consists of members of the public.

Healthcare facilities must comply with certain conditions in order to participate in the Medicare Program. Through a process termed "deemed status," the Health Care Financing Administration relies on accrediting organizations to assure that Healthcare facilities are providing quality services to Medicare beneficiaries. The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations is one such organization. If a facility is accredited by the

joint commission, for example, it is deemed to meet Medicare's conditions of participation.

When facilities are wrongly accredited, Medicare beneficiaries suffer. A 1988 Wall Street Journal investigation found that "accreditation masks serious failings in possibly hundreds of the 5,100 hospitals in America that are inspected and approved by the joint commission." The Journal also reported that many patients died as a result of receiving substandard care in hospitals that were considered "marginal" and that "many accredited hospitals had actually failed inspections but remained accredited for months, even years, as they sought to correct their problems."

At a 1990 hearing, witnesses agreed on the need to improve the hospital accreditation process. Participants reported that accrediting organizations' survey standards lacked compatibility with Medicare's conditions of participation and that follow-up with noncompliant facilities was lacking.

Today, I am focusing on the importance of an accrediting organization's accountability to the public. Accrediting bodies should be managed and directed by a balanced combination of healthcare professionals and community representatives and consumers. Currently, many accrediting bodies are directed solely by leaders of the same organizations which they accredit. This is nothing more than the fox watching the chicken house.

The joint commission has attempted to increase its commitment to the public. Currently, 6 of its 28 accrediting board members are members of the public. Although a good start, it is not enough.

We should reconsider the dependence of accrediting organizations on funding and direction from the same healthcare organizations which they survey and accredit. A July 1996 report from the public citizen health research group charged that the joint commission is "a captive of the industry whose quality of service it purports to measure."

Further, the group concluded that the joint commission "fails to recognize the often conflicting interests of hospitals and the public" and puts the interest of healthcare institutions first when conflicts arise. I question the credibility of accrediting bodies, because their income currently depends on the facilities they are supposed to be monitoring. Until a balance of representation is brought to the boards which lead accrediting organizations, we cannot assure the interests of the public are truly being considered.

As the number of accrediting organizations increases, so does the need for public accountability. For this reason, I am introducing a bill that requires all Medicare-accrediting organizations to hold public meetings and to ensure that at least a third of the governing board consists of members of the public.

This bill is a first step in assuring quality of care for our Nation's Medicare beneficiaries through the accreditation process. I am currently working on a more comprehensive bill that will make accrediting organizations more accountable—accountable to the public as well as to the health care financing administration. The upcoming bill will require the following:

Accrediting organizations must release the status of all accredited facilities to the general public within a reasonable time frame.

HCFA must scrutinize all advertising claims which use data from accrediting organizations, and must deny accreditation to all healthcare organizations which falsify accreditation-related information.

Accrediting organizations must allow employees of healthcare organizations to meet with survey teams off-premises, must accept confidential testimony from healthcare workers during surveys, and must provide whistleblower protection for workers who report violations of accreditation rules.

Accrediting organizations must publicly disclose all payments received from organizations that are being accredited.

HCFA must work with accrediting organizations to develop a comprehensive crosswalk between the organization's and Medicare's standards and must resolve any differences.

Accrediting organizations must notify HCFA when facilities are found to be noncompliant and must work with HCFA to assure that hospitals promptly correct identified problems and that HCFA is immediately informed of these actions.

Some accrediting organizations are attempting to increase public accountability. For example, the joint commission publicly releases information about the performance of specific health care organizations so that beneficiaries are able to make educated decisions concerning their health care providers. The commission also has a site on the World Wide Web through which the public will be able to access status information about specific organizations by late this year. However, the joint commission is only one of the many organizations that accredits Medicare facilities.

The goal of the bill I am introducing today is to begin the debate . . . accrediting organizations must be accountable to the public. We must guarantee that the public voice is represented in the organizations responsible for safety and quality in Medicare's healthcare facilities. When this is achieved, we can begin to assure beneficiaries that they will receive high quality treatment in all Medicare-approved facilities.

REV. THEODORE CARL MELINATE;
SPREADING JOY ALONG THE WAY

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who has blessed us all with his commitment and generosity to our Nation's children, the Reverend Theodore Carl Melinat. Reverend Melinat epitomizes the qualities of selflessness, dedication, and devotion that all members of our Society should aspire to.

On Saturday, February 22, The Lutheran Child and Family Services of Michigan will hold its annual meeting, "Joy Along the Way," and honor Rev. Theodore Carl Melinat for his 30 years of dedication to Lutheran Child and Family Services and the people of Michigan. Reverend Melinat joined the Lutheran Child and Family Services of Michigan in 1967 when it was still called the Lutheran Children's

Friend Society of Michigan and served as its executive assistant until 1971. In 1972, Reverend Melinat became the executive director of the agency, a post he continues to hold. In 1981, under the Reverend's directorship, the agency switched to its current name, the Lutheran Child and Family Service of Michigan.

Ted Melinat was born in Crockston, MN and attended Concordia College, Concordia Seminary, and the University of Michigan before becoming a Missionary-at-Large for the Michigan District of LC-MS in northwest Grand Rapids. During his long and varied career, Theodore Carl Melinat has been the first pastor of Zion Lutheran Church in Comstock Park, MI, the vacancy pastor at Grace Lutheran Church in Auburn, MI, and served as an advisory pastoral delegate for the Convention of Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in Anaheim, CA. Always willing to give of himself, Reverend Melinat over the years has served on numerous boards of directors for Michigan Children associations such as the Michigan Federation of Private Child and Family Agencies.

Never seeking the limelight, Reverend Melinat has quietly contributed his time and energy to a wide variety of charitable causes for the sake of our children. Causes such as the Child Welfare League of America and the Governor's Task Force on Children's Issues have been fortunate enough to have the Reverend working tirelessly on behalf of their organization. Through the years, the Reverend has served on numerous boards to assist the Lutheran Church in their outreach efforts in Michigan. Reverend Melinat is a humble, decent citizen who has embodied the Christian work ethic throughout three decades of dedicated public service.

Mr. Speaker, moral courage and dedication to service are only two of the myriad of admirable qualities that Theodore Carl Melinat teaches us by example every day. For three decades Michigan's children and you and I have been fortunate enough to have him as an advocate. For these reasons, I ask you and the rest of our colleagues to join me in congratulating Reverend Melinat for 30 years of dedicated service to the people, and most importantly the children, of Michigan.

IT IS TIME FOR AN AFRICAN-AMERICAN MUSEUM

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, once again I am introducing a bill to establish an African-American Museum on the Mall in Washington, DC as part of the Smithsonian. I submit this bill during Black History Month to highlight the significance, urgency and importance of such a museum.

The story of black people in America has yet to be told in its entirety. African-American history is an integral part of our country, yet the richness and variety of that history is little-known and little-understood. As tourists from all over the world come to visit our Nation's Capital, they will not be able to learn the full

history of black people in America. This museum presents a great opportunity—to showcase our history in its diversity and breadth, and to make the understanding of American history more complete.

Did you know that Dr. Daniel Hale Williams was a pioneering heart surgeon that played a vital role in the discovery of open-heart surgery? And that Ernest Everett Just, Percy Julian, and George Washington Carver were all outstanding scientists? Educators such as W.E.B. DuBois and Benjamin E. Mays left an indelible mark on this country. The Harlem Renaissance produced poets, writers, and musicians like Countee Cullen, Langston Hughes, and Duke Ellington. The civil rights movement changed the face of this country and inspired movements toward democracy and justice all over the world producing great leaders like Martin Luther King, Jr., and Whitney Young. Too few people know that Benjamin Benneker, an outstanding mathematician, along with Pierre L'Enfant, designed the District of Columbia. There are many more and their stories must be told.

Until we understand the African-American story in its fullness and complexity, we cannot understand ourselves as a nation. We must know we are and where we have come from so that we may move forward together. And we recognize the importance of all our people and all of our history. The establishment of this museum would be one important step toward achieving greater understanding as a nation and as a people.

It is my hope and prayer that as we preserve these important moments in history, we will inspire future generations to dream, to write, to march and to teach. As they are able to look back at all that has been accomplished, they will be able to look forward and believe in the future of our great country.

I am pleased and delighted that many of my colleagues have joined me in cosponsoring this bill. I urge all my colleagues of the 105th Congress to support this worthwhile and important legislation.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, in the last Congress, excellent progress was made on immigration reform. I was proud to be an active participant. However, we did not go far enough. Much more needs to be done to stem the ever increasing tide of illegal aliens flowing across the U.S.-Mexico border. That's why today I am introducing legislation which would authorize the use of Department of Defense personnel to assist the U.S. Border Patrol and other Federal law enforcement agencies working to stop illegal immigration.

With current estimates reporting thousands of illegal immigrants entering our country each day, Congress has an obligation to make available to Federal law enforcement agencies all possible resources in securing our borders.

My bill authorizes the Secretary of Defense to assign Department of Defense personnel to

assist the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the United States Customs Service in patrolling the borders and stopping illegal immigration. The bill does not mandate the use of troops on our border. It simply authorizes the Pentagon to supply troops at the request of the Attorney General or the Secretary of the Treasury. In addition, if employed, the troops would only provide support to law enforcement. They would have no arrest powers.

For the last 8 years, the Department of Defense has rapidly and dramatically expanded its role in the "war on drugs." Today's military is well-equipped to handle law enforcement functions. The military's role in combating drug smuggling along our southern border is a perfect example. Given the continuing problem we have with illegal immigrants, Federal law enforcement officials should be given the option of using the military to support their efforts.

I would urge my colleagues to support my legislation. It is a positive step in closing the door on illegal immigration.

AN EVENING HONORING ANDREW
P. POTOS

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Andrew P. Potos as he retires from WITI-TV in Milwaukee, WI, after a successful career that spans over three decades.

Andy was born and raised in Milwaukee, and throughout his career he has demonstrated a love for our community through his active role in making Milwaukee a better place to live. Before he began his career at WITI-TV, Andy served his community as a history and English teacher at Washington High School in Milwaukee. He then went on to join WITI in 1961, the beginning of a 36 year commitment to making WITI a topnotch news organization.

When Andy Potos joined channel 6 in 1961 as an account executive, he decided that someday he would serve as General Manager. As it turns out, that goal would be met in 1981, and he would serve as one of Milwaukee's longest tenured television general managers. Even when his career path took him to Chicago or New York, he knew he would some day be back in Milwaukee. Since 1981, Andy has been at the helm of WITI and has made it one of the best television stations in the country. His leadership and managerial skills are second to none.

However, there is much more to Andy than just television. He is as committed to Milwaukee as anyone I know. Over the years he has taken a proactive role in improving our community at all levels. He has served as a board member of Junior Achievement of Southeast Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Heart Association, the Muscular Dystrophy Association, and the Milwaukee Chapter of the NAACP just to name a few. Whether it was managing a television station, or raising funds for charity, Andy Potos has been there for Milwaukee.

I would like to join everyone at WITI-TV in saying that Andy will surely be missed by all. May you enjoy a very healthy, happy retirement, and all the best in your future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO KNOX PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the Knox Presbyterian Church on the occasion of its 100th anniversary of providing outstanding ministry and spiritual leadership to the people of the city of Los Angeles. On February 2, I had the distinct pleasure of attending the church's 100th anniversary service.

The Knox Church is exceptional in its service to the community in many ways, providing spiritual leadership to an ethnically diverse parish and congregation. Embedded in its mission statement is a commitment to utilizing our existing diversity to attract, welcome and retain persons of various backgrounds who are accepting of ethnic diversity. The Knox Church truly fulfills the ideals of the Christian faith in its welcoming embrace of all peoples. I personally bore witness to this at the 100th anniversary service. The congregation is comprised of people of all ethnicities coming together in the glory of God. In this way, the Knox Church is a praiseworthy example of co-existence and mutual support for the city of Los Angeles, the Nation, and the world.

Rev. Mark F. Buchanan is the current pastor of the Knox Presbyterian Church. He is a graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary and has brought to Knox youth, enthusiasm, and a strong vision of the future. Under his guidance Knox has developed and is implementing its new long range plan that will take the church into the new millennium.

The Knox Church takes great pride in the quality and scope of its music program. The program is led by music director Glenn Riske, who has served as music director for over 26 years. The church's handbell choir is one of the many highlights of the music program. It has performed all over southern California, including at the Easter sunrise service at the Hollywood Bowl and the televised Christmas program at the Music Center Los Angeles. In recognition of the Knox church's century of exemplary service to the community, I would like to take this opportunity to share with my colleagues the historical retrospective of this great church.

On November 8, 1896, a small group of people came together for a worship service held in Cutler Hall in what is now downtown Los Angeles. They were led by Rev. William Stewart Young, a pioneer of Presbyterianism in southern California. The church soon moved to a new location at the Southgate Masonic Hall at Main Street and 30th Street. The Knox Presbyterian Church was formally organized at this location on Sunday, January 10, 1897. Reverend Young was officially installed

as the first pastor on November 25, 1902. During his tenure the Reverend Young increased the church's membership and oversaw the erection of its first home on 30th Street. This location was officially dedicated on January 12, 1902. Reverend Young continued to lead the Knox Church until 1907. The Reverend Young was succeeded by the Reverend Edward J. Harper who served Knox from January 13, 1907, until June 1910.

The Reverend Henderson C. Shoemaker was called as supply pastor on July 7, 1910, and was officially installed as pastor on March 2, 1911. During Rev. Shoemaker's tenure, the Knox congregation moved to a new location at the corner of Figueroa and 43d Streets. The building was completed and formally dedicated on November 30, 1913. The Reverend Harry Hillard followed Reverend Shoemaker serving as pastor from July 19, 1914, through September 25, 1918. During Reverend Hillard's pastorate, Knox membership rose to 300.

On March 9, 1919, Rev. Leslie Logue Boyd was called to Knox and on April 27, 1919, was installed. Under his leadership Knox celebrated its 25th anniversary. He was followed by Rev. William Hiram Manshardt, who was installed as the rector on February 24, 1924. It was during his ministry that the church debts were cleared and a manse was purchased at 557 West 46th Street. Pastor Manshardt served Knox for 15 years.

The Reverend Chester M. Buley was installed as pastor on January 29, 1939. On that same day the congregation heard, for the first time, the Dr. William and Sarah Young Memorial Organ. Rev. Calvin A. Duncan took over leadership of the Knox Church in May 1944. He presided over the church's 50th anniversary on February 2, 1947. On May 23, 1954, Rev. Arthur P. Rech was installed. Under his 25 years tutelage the Knox Church moved to its current location in Ladera Heights and all of the facilities as they now exist were constructed. During this period numerous projects, which continue to flourish today, were instituted. Among them are the LAX Food Pantry, Masters Mates and Laderians. Rev. Rech stepped down as pastor on December 2, 1979.

On June 28, 1981, Rev. James E. Kenney was installed as pastor and served for 10 years. Interim pastors, Rev. Jack Peters, Rev. Gary Wilburn, and Rev. John Dean, served until the February 20, 1994, installation of Rev. Mark F. Buchanan.

Few would argue about the increasingly important correlation that exists between the church and a healthy community. For over a century, the Knox Presbyterian Church has contributed to that prosperity by offering a ministry that nurtures the soul and empowers the mind. By providing spiritual empowerment to the community it continues to shine as a beacon of hope for the future. I am proud to recognize and commend Rev. Mark Buchanan and the congregation of the Knox Presbyterian Church for their ministry and leadership to the Los Angeles community. Please join me in extending our profound best wishes for continued success in the future.

THE TRUTH IN EMPLOYMENT ACT
OF 1997

HON. HARRIS FAWELL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. FAWELL. Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt that many of our colleagues have now heard of the union organizing tactic known as salting. I am equally sure that most of them have been greatly disturbed by what they have heard; and, for good reason. In recent years, salting has evolved into an abusive practice which, sadly, has little to do with legitimate union organizing. Instead, salting has become a tool—or perhaps better stated; a weapon—for putting nonunion companies out of business.

This unfortunate fact was made clear during the 104th Congress, when the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities held three hearings which highlighted the problems associated with union salting. The testimony from those hearings included stories about union organizers and agents who had sought or gained employment with a nonunion employer when, in fact, they had little, if any, intention of truly working for that company. In many cases, the organizers and agents were there simply to disrupt the employer's workplace or to increase the cost of doing business by forcing the employer to defend itself against frivolous charges filed with the National Labor Relations Board [NLRB]. For most of these companies—many of which were small businesses—the economic harm inflicted by the union's salting campaigns was devastating.

Equally troubling, Mr. Speaker, is the brazen manner in which union salts go about their business of inflicting economic harm on non-union employers. Indeed, most union salts make clear when they apply for a job that their loyalties lie elsewhere and that they have no interest in working to promote the interests of the company.

One might ask why an employer would hire an individual that he knows is there to hurt his company. The complicated answer to this question, Mr. Speaker, lies in broad interpretations of who is covered by provisions of the National Labor Relations Act [NLRA], which prohibits employers from discriminating against employees because of their union interests or activities. These interpretations have had the practical effect of presenting employers with a Hobson's choice: either hire the union salt who is sure to disrupt your workplace and file frivolous charges resulting in costly litigation; or, deny the salt employment and risk being sued for discrimination under the NLRA. Either way the employer is faced with a hiring decision that may threaten the very survival of his or her business.

In an effort to remedy this situation, Mr. Speaker, last year I introduced the Truth in Employment Act of 1996. And, while I was disappointed that we concluded the 2d session of the 104th Congress without addressing the problems of union salting, I was pleased that a significant number of our colleagues were also sufficiently concerned to join me as co-sponsors of that legislation.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the problems of abusive salting persist today; and, they continue to take a heavy toll on employers in the form of costly litigation, lost productivity, and destroyed property. For those reasons, I am today reintroducing for consideration by the 105th Congress the Truth in Employment Act of 1997. This legislation is virtually identical to the bill I introduced during the last Congress. In short, the bill would amend section 8 of the National Labor Relations Act to make clear that an employer is not required to hire any person who seeks a job in order to promote the interests of another employer or organization for whom that person is acting as an agent. When enacted, the bill will help restore the balance of rights that salting upsets and that is fundamental to our system of collective bargaining.

I want to again make clear, Mr. Speaker, as I did during the last Congress, that this bill is in no way intended to infringe upon any rights or protections otherwise accorded employees under the NLRA. Employees will continue to enjoy their right to organize or engage in other concerted activities protected under the act. And, employers will still be prohibited from discriminating against employees on the basis of union membership or union activism. The bill merely seeks to alleviate the legal pressures imposed upon employers to hire individuals whose real purpose for seeking the job is to disrupt the employer's workplace or otherwise inflict economic harm designed to put the employer out of business.

Mr. Speaker, at its core, the National Labor Relations Act—indeed, our entire collective bargaining system—is about balancing the rights and protections of both employers and the men and women who work for them. At its worst, salting upsets that balance in a way not contemplated when the NLRA was enacted. Surely, Congress could not have intended the NLRA to be used as the legal shield that union salts now commonly invoke in defense of their abusive behavior. Moreover, common sense tells us that employers should be entitled to some measure of confidence when making hiring decisions that the job applicants they consider are motivated by their desire for work and promote the interests of that employer—not another organization bent on disrupting or putting that company out of business.

The Truth in Employment Act will help restore that confidence, Mr. Speaker, while at the same time protecting the rights of employees and their union representatives. Once again, I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE USCG
AIR STATION, SAVANNAH, GA,
FOR A JOB WELL DONE

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, when no one else was able to help, U.S. Coast Guard helicopter 6573, based at the USCG Air Station in Savannah, GA, swung into action to carry a 3-

year-old burn victim from Statesboro, GA to much needed treatment in Savannah, GA. The air station staff's heroic actions are detailed in the following letter from Bulloch Co. EMS/Rescue Director Lee Eckles:

BULLOCH COUNTY EMS/RESCUE,
Statesboro, Ga, October 27, 1996.Adm. ROBERT E. KRAMER,
Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard, Washington,
DC.

DEAR ADMIRAL KRAMER, I realize how busy you must be, but when it comes to expressing ones thanks for saving the life of a child, I felt like you just might have a few minutes to read this letter.

On September 25, 1996, our department was dispatched to respond to a "burn patient" some ten (10) miles away from our station. With no other information available, we responded. Arriving at the scene, our staff found a three year old female with second and third degree burns covering over seventy percent of her body. Within twenty-five minutes of our dispatch time, the child was receiving primary care treatment at our local hospital.

It was clear from first observations that this three year old would need the specialized care of the "Burn Center" ninety miles to our west, in order to have any chance of survival. Due to the extent and severity of the burns and the fact that she had suffered extensive airway burns, transport time to the burn center would have a significant impact on her survival. Air transport was the only option. The regional Trauma Center in Savannah, fifty miles to our east has the only civilian medivac helicopter available in all of South Georgia. Upon making the request, I was notified that their helicopter was out of service for maintenance. They did however, quickly refer us to the military M.A.S.T. helicopter unit at Fort Stewart. As I dialed the phone, I remembered from my military tour of duty with the Coast Guard (1978-1981), the bureaucratic process that would have to be overcome in order for a military aircraft to be approved for use on a civilian medivac mission. The desk sergeant quickly transferred my call to the duty officer. My first comment to the Major was to apologize for my sense of urgency, but a child's life was on the line. Simply stated, I ask if his M.A.S.T. Helicopter could be airborne in five minutes or less for a medivac flight. His response was brief and very direct "It will take me at least thirty minutes to find someone who is capable of giving authorization," I thanked him for his time, and hung up the phone.

I realized at that point we were out of options. One of my staff members, feeling helpless said "why don't you call the Coast Guard, I know they have a helicopter." With nothing but the cost of a phone call to lose, I called the Coast Guard Air Station in Savannah Georgia. One again, I explained the urgency of my request. This time however, the response was different. Within five minutes, USCG 6573 was airborne and enroute to the Statesboro Municipal Airport. To make a long story short, the Coast Guard answered the call for help when no one else was available. The medivac mission was carried out without a hitch. Our every request was quickly accommodated.

Every one involved, from the pilots and air crew to the individuals operating the telephone played an extremely crucial role in the critical care transport of Stacie Martin. At this point in time, I am not certain about Stacie's outcome because of the extent and severity of her injuries. One thing I certainly know, is the role played by All Coast Guard

Personnel involved will be credited with every positive milestone that Stacie overcomes on her long road to recovery.

For four years, stationed at USCG Group Charleston, being a SAR small boat coxswain, the Coast Guard Motto, *Semper Paratus*, seldom took on a very significant meaning. However, on Wednesday, September 25, 1996, being "Always ready" had a much greater meaning than each and every day of my brief Coast Guard career. On that Wednesday, it seemed that the bureaucracy worked against Stacie, until Coast Guard assistance was requested. No bureaucracy, no delay, no excuses, simply immediate response, few questions, and extraordinary execution of duty and responsibility by all USCG personnel involved. I have always been proud of the many roles that I was involved in while a member of the Coast Guard, but never as impressed as I was on Wednesday the 25th.

I realize how truly insignificant our language and my own vocabulary really is when trying to express my sincere gratitude and thanks to everybody at the Coast Guard Air Station in Savannah, and to the personnel at the District Office in Miami. This is truly a case of one of the most outstanding humanitarian missions ever undertaken by my former branch of service.

There were probably many people who were involved whose names I did not have a chance to document, but those names I do have are as follows:

Captain Clark—OSR Miami.
Captain Thomas W. Sechler—OIC, Coast Guard Air Station Savannah.
Lieutenant Richard Craig—Pilot.
Lieutenant Thomas Gaffney—Pilot.
Glenn Boggs—AD1.
William (Bill) DeCamp—ASM2.
Lieutenant Pat Ryan.
Rob Jerger—AM3.
Mike Forchette—AEL.

I know these people and all others involved in this mission were only doing their job, but, speaking in behalf, of the family of Stacie Martin, the Bulloch County Department of Public Safety, Bulloch County EMS/RESCUE, and our entire community, I wish again to express a very heartfelt thanks. The entire United States Coast Guard came through in our time of need. It was truly an answered prayer.

I know we at EMS/RESCUE in Bulloch County will never be able to repay all those involved, but, if you ever have any need here in our community, please don't hesitate to call.

Very Sincerely,

LEE ECHIES,
Director.

UNITED STATES-JAPAN SECURITY RELATIONS AND OKINAWA

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased on behalf of myself and Representatives BE-REUTER, and BERMAN, to introduce a resolution recognizing the vital role of the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between the United States and Japan in ensuring the peace and prosperity of the Asia Pacific region, and expressing gratitude to the people of Okinawa for the special role they have played in ensuring the implementation of this treaty.

My friend and colleague, WILLIAM V. ROTH, Jr., is introducing a similar resolution in the other body today.

I agree with former Member of this House, and former U.S. Ambassador to Japan, Mike Mansfield, who called the relationship between the United States and Japan "the most important bilateral relationship in the world, bar none." The end of the cold war and resulting instability in Asia has only reinforced the fundamental importance of this relationship to our two nations, the Asia-Pacific region, and the world as a whole.

Indeed, as Secretary of State Madeline Albright stated to the House International Relations Committee this week, "our alliance with a democratic and prosperous Japan is one of the great successes of the postwar era." Our security alliance has endured over the years, and remains strong today, because the United States and Japan are united not by a common enemy, but rather, by common interests.

In the formulation of former Assistant Secretary of Defense Joseph S. Nye, security is like oxygen. You tend not to notice it until you begin to lose it. Once you lose it, you would pay any price to have it back.

The alliance between the United States and Japan provides the oxygen which allows the economies and societies of the Asia-Pacific region to thrive. It rightly remains the foundation of American security strategy for the Asia-Pacific region. The United States, as a Pacific power, and world's leading exporter, gains more than any nation from the region's peace and prosperity.

The Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security encapsulates the terms of the bilateral alliance. This past December, the United States and Japan agreed to measures to renew our security relationship in the Special Action Committee on Okinawa [SACO] Final Report issued by the United States-Japan Security Consultative Committee. This report set forth a timetable for return to Japanese control of one-fifth of the land used by the U.S. military in Okinawa. This island prefecture, as host to over half of the forward-deployed troops of the United States in Japan, has long borne a major share of the burdens of maintaining regional security.

The SACO Final Report therefore also provided for changes in operational and training procedures and in the Status of Forces Agreement which will maintain the operational capability and readiness of forward-deployed U.S. forces while lessening the impact of the U.S. military presence on the daily life of the Okinawan people.

For centuries Okinawa has been known as the Land of Courtesy. The Okinawan people deserve our gratitude for their many contributions to the United States-Japan relationship, and to the peace and security of the region. Their continued understanding and support are vital to the successful implementation of the SACO Final Report, and the Mutual Security Treaty.

Mr. Speaker, the resolution I introduce today reaffirms that the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security remains vital to the security interests of the United States, Japan, and the countries of the Asia-Pacific region. It acknowledges the achievement of the United States and Japanese Governments in reinvig-

orating the alliance through the SACO Final Report. It also recognizes the special contributions of the people of Okinawa, to the implementation of the Treaty.

Mr. Speaker, in view of the critical importance to the United States of our relationship with Japan, I urge my colleagues to join me in passing this resolution.

THE SECRET LIFE OF THE SANDINISTAS

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. BURTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of the 105th Congress the newly released book entitled, "The Secret Life of the Sandinistas." This book written by Roberto Arguello, outlines the last decade of Sandinista activity.

Mr. Arguello writes material published in as many as 140 newspapers in Latin America and is a member of the U.S. Senate's Hispanic task force. This latest work is a capstone to his efforts for advocating free enterprise and fighting for the elimination of totalitarian oppression.

Mr. Arguello's, "The Secret Life of the Sandinistas," will be available in the near future through the Library of Congress. I would encourage all of my colleagues who have either a general interest in international affairs or a specific interest in Nicaragua to review this excellent book.

RAYMOND "TIM" GORECKI NAMED 1997 PERSON OF THE YEAR BY THE COUNCIL OF SOUTH SIDE ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATIONS

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Raymond "Tim" Gorecki, on being named one of the 1997 Persons of the Year by the Council of South Side Advancement Associations.

By honoring Tim, the Council of South Side Advancement is recognizing a man who has served Milwaukee's south side for over 20 years. In that time, he has had a direct impact on the lives of many Milwaukeeans.

Tim Gorecki has shown his dedication to his community through his involvement in several organizations. In addition to serving on the Board of Directors for the Council of South Side Advancement Associations, Tim also served as the Sergeant at Arms for the Milwaukee County Council of the American Legion, and is a member of the South Side Business Club and the George Washington Legion. Tim's involvement in these organizations demonstrates his commitment to Milwaukee.

Tim Gorecki has clearly set an example for all of us to follow. I join the Council of South Side Advancement Associations in commending Tim Gorecki on his outstanding dedication to the south side of Milwaukee, and I

congratulate him on being named one of the 1997 Persons of the Years.

IN SUPPORT OF TRIO PROGRAMS

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of one of the best educational and welfare reform tools available today in the United States, our TRIO programs. The TRIO program is designed to identify students in need and provide them with information on academics; financial aid; tutoring support; and other needed services so they may have a chance to enter and graduate from a postsecondary institution. I can think of no better use of our precious fiscal resources than providing someone with the tools to earn their own way in this world.

I also wish to applaud the efforts of the TRIO program at Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, AL. Under the direction of Stillman's president, Dr. Cordell Wynn, and the director of their TRIO program, Mr. Vernon Freeman, I feel we have one of the more forward reaching programs in the country. In closing, I wish to offer a special commendation to the parents of our TRIO students for the encouragement, participation and love which they have shown to their children. For after all, one of the greatest legacies which we may leave our children, is a sound education in which they may build their future.

REFORM OF THE 1872 MINING LAW

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, in the long and expensive history of corporate welfare, no law has evaded reform more successfully than the mining law of 1872. For 125 years, since the administration of Ulysses S. Grant, this law has governed hard rock mining in America. And throughout those 125 years, as billions of dollars in public gold, silver, and other valuable resources have been mined, the taxpayers have not received one dime in royalties.

We don't treat any other resource that way—not coal, not water, not oil or gas. No State allows mining on its land without some royalty. No private landowner tolerates it. No foreign nation. "Only in America," as they say, would we give away billions of dollars in gold and ask nothing for the taxpayers who own it.

But it isn't fair to say we get nothing from the mining activity. The mining industry has left behind a legacy of environmental destruction—including hundreds of thousands of abandoned, toxic and contaminated minesites, that threaten our environment, our public health and our public lands and wildlife.

Fifty-nine sites on the Superfund list are the result of hardrock mining. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, mine wastes

have polluted more than 12,000 miles of our Nation's waterways and 180,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs. At least 50 billion tons of untreated, unreclaimed mining wastes—including arsenic, cadmium, copper, cyanide, iron, lead, mercury, sulphur, and zinc-contaminate public and private lands. The costs of clean-up is in the tens of billions of dollars.

Those of us who represent western States know there are special problems resulting from past mining activity.

In California, the inactive Iron Mountain mine discharges one-fourth of the entire national discharge of copper and zinc to surface waters from industrial and municipal sources, according to the EPA. The city of Redding can no longer use the Sacramento River for drinking water because of the contamination levels.

In Colorado, a father and son were riding their motorbikes cross-country when they plunged into an unmarked abandoned mine. The son was killed.

In Nevada, long-abandoned Comstock Lode gold and silver mines are leaching heavy metals into the Carson River, not far from Lake Tahoe.

In Montana, windblown heavy metal particulates from old mine tailings forced official to replace high-school baseball fields around Butte.

In Idaho, EPA found lead levels in the area downwind from the abandoned Bunker Hill silver mine to be 30 times higher than the maximum levels deemed "safe." Nearly all of the 179 children living within 1 mile of the site have potentially brain-impairing lead levels in their blood.

This is the legacy—not only of an antiquated mining program that let mining companies run amok, but of a Congress that has ignored the mounting cost to taxpayers, to the environment, and to public health. It has to end.

The bills Senator DALE BUMPERS and I are introducing today will raise \$1.5 billion directly from the industry that has profited from the mining program in order to clean-up the legacy of the mining program. Our bills will: Impose a 5-percent net smelter return royalty on all hard rock minerals mined from public lands to that taxpayers will—finally—receive a fair return on the extraction of hard rock minerals from public lands; impose a reclamation fee on all hard rock minerals mined from lands patented under the 1872 mining law; and close the depletion allowance loophole so that mining operators can no longer take a tax credit for depleting taxpayers' mineral wealth.

Overhaul of the mining law is long overdue. Powerful special interests, with the help of a few members of Congress, have literally lined their pockets with gold. And the taxpayer and the environment have paid the price. These bills will finally begin to give a fair return to the taxpayer and restore despoiled public lands.

Why might we succeed in 1997 were we have failed before? Because, I believe, the public is demanding an end to the multi-billion dollar orgy of corporate welfare that swells our deficit every year. Because the Clinton administration has targeted the mining program for reform in its 1998 budget. Because we are winning bipartisan support for ending outdated and expensive Federal subsidies. And because, even in the mining States of the West,

four out of five Americans support mining reform.

It is a disgrace that on the eve of the 21st century, taxpayers and the environment continue to be ripped off by an antiquated law from the 19th century. If Congress is serious about reducing wasteful and unjustified corporate welfare, we should begin by reforming the mining law of 1872.

NOT WHOM YOU TELL, BUT HOW YOU KNOW

HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, several Members of the House of Representatives, including the chairman of the Republican Congressional Campaign Committee, have made some rather hasty public statements concerning the recorded cellular telephone call involving Speaker GINGRICH and all of its legal ramifications. Many claims have been made about the laws that are applicable to disclosure of confidential information, but I am concerned there has been insufficient legal research into the statutes involved and into the legal precedents in existence. In this regard, Mr. Speaker, I am submitting for the RECORD an analysis that was printed in this week's National Law Journal by an expert first amendment lawyer whose practice involved areas of newsgathering, publishing, and broadcasting. In this article, Victor A. Kovner takes issue with an assertion made by allies of Speaker GINGRICH who were involved in the recorded conversation. Specifically, the charge was made that forwarding and publishing information from such a conversation was a felony. In this article, Mr. Kovner explores the Federal wiretap statute (18 U.S.C. 2510 et seq.) as it pertains to recorded conversations and concludes that "there is scant authority for finding a criminal violation based on mere disclosure by a person who had no role in the underlying recording."

I urge my colleagues to carefully consider Mr. Kovner's compelling reasoning as presented in the National Law Journal.

[From the National Law Journal, Feb. 10, 1997]

NOT WHOM YOU TELL, BUT HOW YOU KNOW

(By Victor A. Kovner)

Congressman Jim McDermott has "committed a felony," New York Rep. Bill Paxon charged at his initial press conference, referring to the alleged delivery by Mr. McDermott, D-Wash., of the tape of the Newt Gingrich strategy conference to the New York Times and Atlanta Journal-Constitution. It is sad to see a fine career "disintegrate," said Mr. Paxon.

Strong words, coming as they did from the chair of the Republican Congressional Campaign Committee and a participant in the taped conversation in which, as later found by Special Counsel James M. Cole, Speaker Gingrich violated his promise to the Ethics Committee not to orchestrate an effort to minimize the charges brought against him.

But was there any basis for such a serious charge by Mr. Paxon? Perhaps the Florida couple who overheard the conversation on

their police scanner (equipment that has been for years widely and lawfully available at retail outlets around the country) may have technically violated the Federal Wiretap Statute, 18 U.S.C. 2510 et seq., which was amended in recent years to cover interception of cellular and cordless calls, as well as regular phone calls. Congress apparently intended to provide for an expectation of privacy with the amendments, and the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals agreed that cordless phone calls made before the amendments did not have a justifiable expectation of privacy. *Tyler v. Berodt*, 877 F.2d 705 (8th Cir. 1989), cert. denied, 110 S. Ct. 723 (1990).

What about the role of Mr. McDermott, who reportedly sent copies to the newspapers? Assuming those reports are accurate (he has declined to define the role, if any, he played), the Paxon theory goes, Mr. McDermott violated the portion of the statute that bars disclosure of an illegal tape or its contents.

This theory proves too much, for if Mr. McDermott's alleged conduct was criminal, why not that of the New York Times or the Atlanta Journal-Constitution? The statute in question makes unlawful not only the unauthorized interception or recording, but also disclosure "knowing or having reason to know" that the recording was unlawful. 18 U.S.C. 2511(1)(c). Why Bill Paxon presumed that Jim McDermott had such knowledge while the newspapers, which examined the tape carefully and transcribed it in its entirety, did not, is unclear. Notably, Mr. Paxon did not charge either newspaper with criminal conduct.

Though, in the context of civil claims for damages, courts have taken various views of the statute's reach, there is scant authority for finding a criminal violation based on mere disclosure by a person who had no role in the underlying recording. In 1993 a number of people associated with Sen. Charles Robb, D-Va., were fined for distributing illegal tapes of personal calls of then-Lt. Gov. Douglas Wilder. Unlike the serendipitous recording of the Gingrich strategy conference, the Wilder tapes were made by a person who had systematically and unlawfully recorded hundreds of cellular calls.

PROTECTIVE PRECEDENT

But any attempt to prosecute people who had no involvement in or knowledge of the unlawful recording, such as Mr. McDermott or the newspapers—neither of whom had any prior association of any kind with the Florida couple—would face serious constitutional problems. In *Landmark Communications v. Virginia*, 435 U.S. 829 (1978), the Supreme Court held that the First Amendment prohibits criminal punishment for disclosure of confidential judicial disciplinary proceedings by nonparticipants in the proceedings. The mere publication of truthful information, even though confidential by law, was found protected.

In dismissing a claim for invasion of privacy by a rape victim whose identity had been inadvertently but unlawfully released to a reporter by an employee of a sheriff's office, the Supreme Court later noted, "We hold only that where a newspaper publishes truthful information which it has lawfully obtained, punishment may lawfully be imposed, if at all, only when narrowly tailored to a state interest of the highest order." *Florida Star v. B.J.F.*, 490 U.S. 524, 109 S. Ct. 2603 (1989).

Given the extraordinary newsworthiness of Speaker Gingrich's violation of a commitment he had just made as part of his plea bargain, it is hard to imagine the presence of

a state interest of the "highest order" warranting the institution of criminal proceedings against Mr. McDermott or the newspapers.

In a case similar to *Landmark Communications*, a California appellate court has written, "[S]tate law cannot impose criminal or civil liability upon a nonparticipant for breach of the confidentiality required by [law]." *Nicholson v. McClatchy Newspapers*, 177 Cal. App. 3d 509, 223 Cal. Rptr. 58 (Cal. App. 3d Dist. 1986).

As a matter of common sense, the participants in the recorded conversation plainly had a diminished expectation of privacy when Rep. John A. Boehner, R-Ohio, joined the conversation on his car phone. Surely the others were aware that he was on a car phone. Surely they were aware that cellular phones may be recorded by nonparticipants with equipment that has been sold lawfully in thousands of stores throughout the country. If Speaker Gingrich was aware he was participating in a nonsecure communication and was then caught violating his commitments to the Ethics Committee, he and Ohio Republican Representative Boehner are principally to blame. Under these circumstances, any claim that the conduct of Jim McDermott (or the newspapers) was felonious would be reckless and irresponsible.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL CLEAN WATER TRUST FUND ACT OF 1997

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation to expedite the cleanup of our Nation's waters. This bill, the National Clean Water Trust Fund Act of 1997, would create a trust fund established from fines, penalties, and other moneys collected through enforcement of the Clean Water Act to help alleviate the problems for which the enforcement actions were taken. This legislation is identical to a measure I introduced with bipartisan support in the last Congress, and it was the model for an amendment that received 156 votes in 1995 during House consideration of legislation to reauthorize the Clean Water Act.

Currently, there is no guarantee that fines or other moneys that result from violations of the Clean Water Act will be used to correct water quality problems. Instead, some of the money goes into the general fund of the U.S. Treasury without any provision that it be used to improve the quality of our Nation's waters.

I am concerned that Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] enforcement activities are extracting large sums of money from industry and others through enforcement of the Clean Water Act, while we ignore the fundamental issue of how to pay for the cleanup of the water pollution problems for which the penalties were levied. If we are really serious about ensuring the successful implementation of the Clean Water Act, we should put these enforcement funds to work and actually clean up our Nation's waters. It does not make sense for scarce resources to go into the bottomless pit of the Treasury's general fund, es-

pecially if we fail to solve our serious water quality problems due to lack of funds.

Specifically, my bill would establish a national clean water trust fund within the U.S. Treasury for fines, penalties, and other moneys, including consent decrees, obtained through enforcement of the Clean Water Act that would otherwise be placed into Treasury's general fund. Under my proposal, the EPA Administrator would be authorized to prioritize and carry out projects to restore and recover waters of the United States using the funds collected from violations of the Clean Water Act. However, this legislation would not preempt citizen suits or in any way preclude EPA's authority to undertake and complete supplemental environmental projects [SEP's] as part of settlements related to violations of the Clean Water Act and/or other legislation.

For example, in 1993, Inland Steel announced a \$54.5 million multimedia consent decree, which included a \$26 million SEP and a \$3.5 million cash payment to the U.S. Treasury. I strongly support the use of SEP's to facilitate the cleanup of serious environmental problems, which are particularly prevalent in my congressional district. However, my bill would dedicate the cash payment to the Treasury to the clean water trust fund. The bill further specifies that remedial projects be within the same EPA region where enforcement action was taken. Northwest Indiana is in EPA region 5, and there are 10 EPA regions throughout the United States. Under my proposal, any funds collected from enforcement of the Clean Water Act in region 5 would go into the national clean water trust fund and, ideally, be used to clean up environmental impacts associated with the problem for which the fine was levied.

To illustrate how a national clean water trust fund would be effective in cleaning up our Nation's waters, I would like to highlight the magnitude of the fines that have been levied through enforcement of the Clean Water Act. Nationwide, in fiscal year 1996, EPA assessed \$85 million in penalties for violations of the Clean Water Act.

My bill also instructs EPA to coordinate its efforts with the States in prioritizing specific cleanup projects. Finally, to monitor the implementation of the national clean water trust fund, I have included a reporting requirement in my legislation. One year after enactment, and every 2 years thereafter, the EPA Administrator would make a report to Congress regarding the establishment of the trust fund.

My legislation has garnered the endorsement of several environmental organizations in northwest Indiana, including the Grand Calumet Task Force, the Indiana Division of the Izaak Walton League, and the Save the Dunes Council. Further, I am encouraged by the support within the national environmental community and the Northeast-Midwest Congressional Coalition for the concept of a National Clean Water Trust Fund. I would also like to point out that, in a 1992 report to Congress on the Clean Water Act enforcement mechanisms, and EPA workgroup recommended amending the Clean Water Act to establish a national clean water trust fund.

In reauthorizing the Clean Water Act, we have a unique opportunity to improve the quality of our Nation's waters. The establishment

of a national clean water trust fund is an innovative step in that direction. By targeting funds accrued through enforcement of the Clean Water Act—that would otherwise go into the Treasury Department's general fund—we can put scarce resources to work and facilitate the cleanup of problem areas throughout the Great Lakes and across this country. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

ADDRESS TO THE PARLIAMENT OF
THE NAGORNO-KARABAGH RE-
PUBLIC

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, as the cochair of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, I traveled to the Republics of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabagh in late January to learn more about the courageous struggle of the Armenian people as they try to build self-sustaining economies and protect their land and freedom.

In Armenia, I met with government officials to discuss the role of the United States and Armenia in preserving the security and economic viability of Nagorno-Karabagh, where peace is threatened by the territorial aggression of Azerbaijan.

Earlier in the week, on January 27, I was most honored to be the first Member of Congress from the United States to speak before the Nagorno-Karabagh Parliament. I am providing my colleagues with a text of the speech in hopes that it will help educate them to the serious problems faced by the Armenian people and enable Members to cast votes in the future that could ease the suffering in that troubled part of the world.

Mr. President, Mr. Foreign Minister, Mr. Chairman and ladies and gentlemen.

It is a great honor for me to address the elected legislature of the Republic of Nagorno-Karabagh. As an elected legislator myself, I see you as my colleagues and friends, fellow-Parliamentarians and fellow-democrats. Yet, to my deep regret, your service to your homeland is not generally granted the same recognition and respect that my status as an elected official of my country grants me around the world. This situation must change. You have earned the right to be accorded the respect of the international community as the legitimate representatives of your land and your people.

I hope that my visit to Karabagh, and especially my presence in your legislative chamber today, will contribute in some small way to a growing international recognition that the Republic of Nagorno-Karabagh is a reality.

Just about one year ago today, I had the privilege of meeting with President Kocharian and Foreign Minister Ghoukassian during their visit to Washington. While the President and Foreign Minister were accorded meetings with Members of Congress, I regret that they were not accorded the type of official welcome from the U.S. Administration that they deserve. Despite the lack of official recognition, the visit of the President and Foreign Minister did a great deal to advance the cause of the Republic of

Nagorno-Karabagh, solidifying support among the Armenian-American community, educating many U.S. foreign policy leaders, and forging new bonds of friendship and understanding. When we met, the President expressed his hope that he would be able to return the hospitality that was shown to him by friends of Karabagh during his visit to the U.S. last year. I am proud to accept that offer now. I appreciate the hospitality that has been shown to me, and I look forward to reporting back to the American people about the courageous struggle of the people of Karabagh to defend their land, their independence and their freedom.

Before I outline some of my ideas and hopes for how our two peoples can grow closer in friendship and partnership, let me tell you a little bit about myself and why I have come here to your seat of government. I represent the Sixth Congressional District of the State of New Jersey. The densely populated, ethnically diverse State I represent includes a significant number of Americans of Armenian descent. Survivors of one of history's most monstrous crimes, the Genocide perpetrated against the Armenian people by the Ottoman Turkish Empire, thousands of Armenians came to America in search of a new life. Many arrived with little more than the shirts on their backs. Yet these immigrants, these survivors, and their sons and daughters, grandsons and granddaughters, have flourished and thrived, becoming one of America's most successful, well-educated and affluent ethnic groups.

While there has for many years been widespread support for the Armenian people among U.S. lawmakers, I felt that these efforts lacked a certain focus and cohesion. So, two years ago, I founded an organization within the Congress of the United States known as the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues. I invited my colleague, Congressman John Porter of the State of Illinois to serve with me as co-chairman. Although I am a Democrat and Mr. Porter is a Republican, we put aside our partisan differences to work for common approaches to support the Armenian people. In just two years' time, the membership of the Caucus increased to 54—Democrats and Republicans, from all regions of the vast United States of America. Always there to support our efforts is the Armenian Assembly, whose support has made my visit here possible.

The Caucus has provided a forum to educate Congress and the public about developments in the Republics of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabagh, and a vehicle to advocate in support of the interests of the Armenian people.

From the time of the collapse of the Soviet Union, Americans have demonstrated their solidarity with the Armenian people—in the Diaspora, as well as in the Republics of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabagh. America has sought to provide support for the people of the newly declared Republic of Armenia, through humanitarian assistance, development aid, the leveraging of capital investment and the facilitation of cultural and educational contacts. The Freedom Support Act of 1992 contains many important provisions intended to engage the U.S. with the Republics of the former U.S.S.R. One provision of that law has made it possible for hundreds of Armenian students to visit the U.S., stay with families, go to schools and even come to Capitol Hill in Washington. Meeting with these bright young people, talking about democracy and hopes for the future, has been one of the real pleasures of my job.

Another very serious and significant provision of that landmark law, Section 907, pro-

hibits direct U.S. Government assistance to the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan until that country lifts its blockade of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabagh.

Preserving this law has been one of the major goals of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues. We have had to withstand very strong opposition from the well-financed Azerbaijan lobbying campaign. In the summer of 1995, during the debate on the Foreign Operations Appropriations bill, the legislation that provides for America to honor its commitments and protect its interests overseas, Congressional friends of Armenia were successful in maintaining the law. I want to pay particular tribute to my friend and colleague, Congressman Pete Visclosky of the State of Indiana, a member of the Armenian Issues Caucus, for his leadership in maintaining the ban on aid to Azerbaijan.

While I support diplomatic solutions, blockades not sanctioned by international bodies must be regarded as illegal. Current law prohibiting direct non-humanitarian U.S. government assistance to the Government of Azerbaijan is the correct policy. I will continue to lead the opposition to all attempts to weaken these sanctions until and unless Azerbaijan stops strangling Armenia and Karabagh.

I regret to report to date that the U.S. Government has not provided any direct humanitarian assistance to the people of Karabagh. As many of you are aware, in 1996 the House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved legislation that would have authorized direct U.S. humanitarian assistance to Karabagh. Unfortunately, the final version of the legislation that was signed into law did not allow for U.S. humanitarian assistance to be provided to Karabagh.

This was a mistake for several reasons. First, the fact that the final political status of Nagorno-Karabagh has not yet been determined should not be an obstacle to providing humanitarian assistance. The objective of humanitarian assistance is to save lives and is not intended to bestow political status or challenge the sovereignty of a state. Whatever the nature of a conflict, humanitarian operations must be clearly distinguished from political and military efforts to achieve peace. Second, humanitarian assistance should be provided on the basis of need anywhere in the world. And I know that there are serious needs that are not being met in Karabagh. Third, in order to be an honest and impartial broker, the United States should provide humanitarian aid to all in the region who need it. Such a policy would send a strong message that the United States is dealing fairly with all sides. The unimpeded, unencumbered flow of humanitarian assistance is a universal principle. I will work in the coming year to ensure that U.S. humanitarian aid to Karabagh is provided on the basis of expected needs.

While on the subject of the delivery of humanitarian assistance, I wanted to point out another major initiative of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues: passage of the Humanitarian Aid Corridor Act. This law states quite simply that countries which block the delivery of U.S. humanitarian assistance to another country will themselves be ineligible for receiving humanitarian assistance. While the legislation does not single out any country, it would clearly include the Republic of Turkey. Turkey is a recipient of huge amounts of U.S. military and civilian aid. Yet this country is engaged in the unconscionable blockading of the Republic of Armenia. The Corridor Act has become a matter of law. Unfortunately, a waiver provision in the law has made enforcement less

effective. Our task is to step up enforcement, to keep the pressure on Turkey to do the right thing and lift the blockade. Removal of the blockade would go a long way toward relieving the suffering of the people of Armenia and Karabagh, and would form the first major confidence building measure to bring peace, stability and, ultimately, economic prosperity to the Caucasus region.

My friends, in America we have an expression that our differences amongst ourselves must end at the water's edge. Travelling as both a citizen and an elected representative of the United States of America, I am conscious of a certain obligation to defend the policies and positions that my country holds. Yet, as a citizen of a democracy, I believe in the need to speak out against those policies and positions with which I disagree. More than 20 years ago, when I was studying international law and diplomacy, I learned that there are two major guiding principles in resolving disputes: territorial integrity and self-determination. In the case of Karabagh, I am concerned that U.S. policy, and that of other nations, leans too heavily on the side of territorial integrity—even though the borders were drawn by the dictator Stalin to divide the historically Armenian region of Karabagh from the rest of the Armenian nation, and despite the fact that the Helsinki Final Act allots equal value to self-determination and territorial integrity. Of course, the economic clout of oil interests seeking to curry favor with Azerbaijan is a very strong factor influencing policy in the region. I am not opposed, in fact, I specifically support the exportation of Caspian Sea oil across Armenia—but not at the expense of the freedom and independence of the people of Karabagh. Indeed, upon my return home, it is my intention to meet with our new Secretary of State, the Honorable Madeleine Albright, to report on my findings and to urge greater support for the interests and needs of the people of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabagh. I have met on several occasions with the U.S. Special Negotiator for Karabagh, who recognizes that the situation in Karabagh is essentially without precedent and will require creative diplomacy to solve. I intend to maintain that dialogue. People of good will can have principled differences, yet continue to work toward a common ground. America truly wants to play a helpful role in resolving this dispute—and I mean an honorable resolution, not a solution dictated upon the people of Karabagh.

We must see to it that the people of Karabagh are guaranteed their security and right to self-determination. Never again should the Armenian people be subjected to the pogroms, massacres and deportations that occurred in Azerbaijan in 1988. It is my belief that if the question of Karabagh were settled on the basis of principles proposed by Azerbaijan, the people of Nagorno-Karabagh would be in constant fear of genocide, deportation and massacre. It seems to me that the only way to promote long-term peace and stability is to respect the right of self-determination for the people of Nagorno-Karabagh. Unfortunately, the international community almost categorically rejects all self-determination claims. This approach is not only ineffective, but it often can prolong conflicts. A blanket rejection of all self-determination claims does not take into account that self-determination movements, such as the Karabagh movement, are not all alike and therefore ought to be treated differently. With respect to the negotiations, the OSCE Minsk Group's mandate makes clear that the final status of Nagorno-

Karabagh's status is to be negotiated. I believe that any predetermination by the negotiators jeopardizes prospects for a peaceful and negotiated settlement.

Furthermore, no substantial progress can be made in negotiations without the direct participation of Nagorno-Karabagh. Clearly, Azerbaijan's refusal to recognize Nagorno-Karabagh as a direct party to the conflict defies logic and precludes serious negotiations. Currently, a cease-fire is in effect, and I hope it holds for the foreseeable future. Azerbaijan and Karabagh have exchanged prisoners of war and accomplished other agreements. Yet this cease-fire is fragile, and does not constitute the basis for a permanent solution. Azerbaijan's current refusal to recognize Nagorno-Karabagh as the second party to the dispute is neither constructive nor realistic. To the extent that the positions taken by the U.S. and the international community are contributing to Azerbaijan's intransigence, we must reassess those policies in light of the effect they might be having.

The Republic of Armenia must play a special role in the peace process. I am spending most of this week in Yerevan in meetings with government officials, and discussions over Armenia's future role as guarantor of Nagorno-Karabagh's security and economic viability, pursuant to international agreements.

The people of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabagh have turned adversity and devastation into advancement, economic progress and the hope for a future based on long-term peace. Surrounded by hostile neighbors, Armenia and Nagorno-Karabagh look to the United States and the international community for support in their commitment to democratic principles and a market economy. As the co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, I am here to learn more about the plight of the Karabagh people and to promote a peaceful solution to the conflict.

Clearly, the people of Karabagh have shown their courage and determination to fight for their homeland—to die for it, if necessary. Nagorno-Karabagh's Army of Defense has shown the ability to control strategic territory. Your sovereignty is not just a matter of future discussion or negotiation—it is a matter of fact. In establishing an independent homeland, you have won the war. My goal and my pledge is to help you win the peace.

HONORING VIKTOR CHERNOMYRDIN

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, last week an extraordinary event took place here in the United States. The Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, Viktor Chernomyrdin, was the special guest of a dinner hosted by the Russian Jewish Congress and attended by business and political Jewish leaders all across America. During the ceremony, Prime Minister Chernomyrdin was presented an award from the president of the Russian Jewish Congress, Mr. Vladimir Goussinsky, in recognition of his commitment and efforts to insure religious freedom and liberty in today's Russia, particularly the 1.5 million Jewish citizens now living in that country.

Many of my colleagues in the Senate and House also attended the dinner. Congressman TOM LANTOS who moderated and offered some poignant remarks about his own experience as a survivor of the Holocaust, was also presented an award along with former U.S. Senator Sam Nunn.

For many of us in Congress who attended the event and have been actively involved in Soviet Jewry over the years, this was a long-awaited and richly satisfying moment. It was not expected in our lifetime to see the establishment of a Russian Jewish Congress in Moscow, nor did we ever expect to see a Russian Prime Minister on our soil proclaiming support for the fundamental rights of the Jewish inhabitants of that country.

Mr. Speaker, the Russian people and their leaders are coping with the challenges and even hardships inherent in forming a democracy and market economy. It is not a pretty picture, to be sure, by what we see in the daily press. We know democracy is in its infant stage and largely untested as is the economy, which is undergoing a painful transformation and still lacks full public support. However, Russia has made surprising strides in respecting the inalienable rights of its citizens. Where once there was suppression of religious beliefs, we now see churches and synagogues being restored. The old state prohibition on immigration has been replaced with relative freedom of movement both inside and outside Russia.

The Russian Jewish Congress choose to publicly recognize Mr. Chernomyrdin's record in full view of United States Congressmen and high ranking officials and business and organizational leaders and present an award to him for his public commitment to preserving Jewish culture and rights in that country.

In presenting the special award, Mr. Goussinsky made reference to a recent event which took place at a sacred Site, which is the burial place for the millions who perished in what is in Russia called the Great Patriotic War. At this place a new synagogue has been built and at the commemoration ceremony, Prime Minister Chernomyrdin laid the first stone and concluded his remarks with the word "Shalom." Mr. Goussinsky also noted that in today's Russia there are still different opinions and attitudes and the fact that Prime Minister Chyernomyrdin would make such an appearance carried historic importance.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to add a second historic event, which is the establishment of the Russian Jewish Congress in January 1996. At the urging of Jewish leaders in the United States and Israel, Mr. Vladimir Goussinsky assumed the leadership for its formation and is now serving as its first president. As such, it is the first attempt to unite the country's foremost Jewish business, public, religious, political, academic and cultural leaders and will also give identity and purpose to the Jewish culture, which has so long been repressed in that nation. The congress has approximately forty branches throughout the Russian Federation that contribute to their own communities.

During 1966, the congress launched the construction of a Holocaust memorial synagogue as part of the national World War II Memorial Park in Moscow. The Congress held

the ground-breaking ceremony for the Holocaust memorial synagogue in October of 1996, which was attended by Viktor Chernomyrdin. It was the first Jewish event in Russian history attended by a Russian Prime Minister.

I applaud Mr. Goussinsky, Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt and other leaders in Russia for their efforts to create self sustaining, proud and independent Jewish communities in Russia, just as they exist all over the world.

ETHICS PROCESS REFORM

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing, along with Representative DAVID DREIER, a resolution to reform the House ethics process by having private citizens help investigate charges of Member misconduct.

It has been clear for some time that the process under which the House considers disciplinary action against Members is in need of serious reform. Major breakdowns in the process over the last several months may mean that the House is finally ready to make the needed changes.

The reform that Representative DREIER and I are urging was developed during our work on the Joint Committee on the Organization of Congress, which we led during the 103d Congress. The joint committee was charged with considering and recommending institutional changes that would make Congress more effective and help restore public confidence in the institution. Ethics process reform was a major focus of the joint committee, and we considered it at length. The proposal that the joint committee recommended with broad, bipartisan support is the one we are introducing today.

Our proposal would help restore the integrity of the House ethics process by involving outsiders in the investigation of ethics complaints against Members. The Speaker and the minority leader would jointly appoint a pool of 20 independent factfinders to be called on by the Standards Committee for ethics investigations as needed, on a case-by-case basis. These individuals would be private citizens, and might include, for example, former Members or retired judges. Lobbyists and other individuals with business before the House would not be eligible. In a particular case, the Standards Committee could call upon four or six of these independent factfinders to investigate charges of misconduct against a Member. They could question witnesses, collect and examine evidence, and then report their findings of fact and recommendations to the full committee. The committee would then make recommendations to the full House, and the full House would make the final decision on whether sanctions are appropriate.

This proposal still retains an appropriate role for the Standards Committee and it does not remove from the House its constitutional responsibility to police its Members for official misconduct. It simply turns over the investigatory phase of the ethics process to private citi-

zens. Involving outsiders in the process in a meaningful way has several advantages. First, it will help restore public confidence in the process by reducing the inherent conflicts of interest involved when Members judge fellow Members—either that they are protecting a friend and colleague or are misusing the ethics process to attack an opponent. Second, it will help ensure that ethics complaints are acted on by the House more quickly. The addition of ordinary citizens to the process would force action on cases that could be held up indefinitely under the current system. Third, it will alleviate the enormous time burdens on Members who serve on the Standards Committee, and will make serving on the committee much less onerous. Various other professions are increasingly calling on outsiders to help them police their membership; the House should too.

Our reform, as I mentioned, received strong bipartisan support on the Joint Committee on the Organization of Congress, and it is strongly supported by congressional scholars including Norm Ornstein of the American Enterprise Institute, Tom Mann of the Brookings Institution, and Dennis Thompson, director of the program in ethics and the professions at Harvard.

Mr. Speaker, it is essential that complaints of unethical conduct by a Member of Congress be investigated fully, impartially, and promptly. We owe that to the accused Member and we also owe that to the institution of the House. I believe that this reform will help insulate the ethics process from the partisan rancor which sometimes exists in the House, and will make the process fairer and more credible to the public. It is an important step in making the House more effective and in restoring public confidence in the institution.

COMPREHENSIVE WOMEN'S PROTECTION ACT OF 1997

HON. BARBARA B. KENNELLY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mrs. KENNELLY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Comprehensive Women's Protection Act of 1997.

Senator MOSELEY-BRAUN and I introduced this legislation last year and were extremely gratified that several provisions were enacted. We hope to build on those successes because there is much more work to be done, particularly for the women of America.

For instance, less than one-third of all women retirees over age 55 receive pension benefits compared to 55 percent of male retirees. Yet the typical American woman who retires can expect to live approximately 19 years. Sadly, over one-third of elderly women living alone live below the poverty line and three-fifths live within 150 percent of the poverty line. Women's pension benefits depend on several factors including: participation in the work force, lifetime earnings relative to those of current or former husbands, and marital history.

There has been a long-term trend toward greater labor market participation by women.

In 1940, only 28 percent of all women worked and less than 15 percent of married women worked. By 1993, almost 60 percent of all women worked and married women were slightly more likely than other women to be working. The growth of women in the work force is even more pronounced for women in their prime earning years—ages 25–54. The labor force participation rate for these women increased from 42 percent in 1960 to 75 percent in 1993. For married women in this age bracket labor force participation increased from 35 percent in 1960 to 72 percent in 1993.

Not only are more women working, they are staying in the work force longer. For instance, 19 percent of married women with children under age 6 worked in 1960; by 1993 60 percent of these women were in the work force. Similarly, 39 percent of married women with children between the ages of 6 and 17 were in the work force in 1960 and by 1993, fully 75 percent of these women were in the work force.

Women's median year-round, full-time covered earnings were a relatively constant 60 percent of men's earnings until about 1980. Since that time, women's earnings have risen to roughly 70 percent of men's. This increase will, in time, increase pension benefits for women although this change will be slow because benefits are based on average earnings over a lifetime.

A woman's marital status at retirement is also a critical factor in determining benefits. The Social Security Administration projects that the proportion of women aged 65 to 69 who are married will remain relatively constant over the next 25 years, and that the proportion who are divorced will more than double over this period. There are tremendous inequities in the law with respect to the pension of a widow or divorced spouse. For instance, only about 54 percent of married private pension plan recipients have selected a joint and survivor option, which, in the event of their death, will continue to provide benefits to their spouse.

The face of women in America today has changed; it's time our pension laws recognize those changes. The bill before us today does just that. Representatives CONNIE MORELLA, ELIZABETH FURSE, CORRINE BROWN, JULIA CARSON, SHEILA JACKSON-LEE, MARCY KAPTUR, NITA LOWEY, CAROLYN MALONEY, CARRIE MEEK, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, and LORETTA SANCHEZ have agreed to be original cosponsors. We would welcome others. A section by section follows. Thank you.

SECTION-BY-SECTION SUMMARY

SECTION 101—INTEGRATION

Problem—Social Security integration is a little known, but potentially devastating mechanism whereby employers can reduce a portion of employer-provided pension benefits by the amount of Social Security to which an employee is entitled. The Tax Reform Act of 1986 limited integration so as to guarantee a minimum level of benefits, but the formula only applied to benefits accrued in plan years beginning after December 31, 1988. Low wage workers are disproportionately affected by integration and are often left with minimal benefits.

Solution—Apply the integration limitations of Tax Reform Act of 1986 to all plan years prior to 1988, thereby minimizing integration for low and moderate wage workers.

In addition, eliminate integration entirely for plan years beginning on or after January 1, 2004. The lag between enactment and 2004 is designed to be a transition period for employers. No integration would be permissible for Simplified Employee Pensions for taxable years beginning after January 1, 1998.

SECTION 102—APPLICATION OF MINIMUM COVERAGE REQUIREMENTS WITH RESPECT TO SEPARATE LINES OF BUSINESS

Problem—Current law allows companies with several lines of business to deny a substantial percentage of employees pension coverage. The employees denied coverage are disproportionately low-wage workers.

Solution—Require that all employees within a single line of business be provided pension coverage to the extent the employer provides coverage and the employee meets other statutory requirements such as minimum age and hours.

SECTION 103—DIVISION OF PENSION BENEFITS UPON DIVORCE

Problem—Pension assets are often overlooked in divorce even though they can be a couple's most valuable asset.

Solution—Using COBRA as a model for the process, provide for an automatic division of defined benefit pension benefits earned during the marriage upon divorce, provided that the couple has been married for five years. The employee would notify his or her employer of a divorce. The employer would then send a letter to the ex-spouse informing him or her that he or she may be entitled to half of the pension earned while the couple was married. The ex-spouse would then have 60 days, as under COBRA, to contact the employer and determine eligibility. If a Qualified Domestic Relations Order (QDRO) dealt with the pension benefits, then this provision would not apply.

SECTION 104—CLARIFICATION OF CONTINUED AVAILABILITY OF REMEDIES RELATING TO MATTERS TREATED IN DOMESTIC RELATIONS ORDERS ENTERED INTO BEFORE 1985

Problem—In response to both the greater propensity of women to spend their retirement years in poverty and the fact that women were much less likely to earn private pension rights based on their own work history, the Retirement Equity Act of 1984 gave the wife the right to a share of her husband's pension assets in the case of divorce. This law only applied to divorces entered into after January 1, 1985.

Solution—Where a divorce occurred prior to 1985, allow the Qualified Domestic Relations Order (QDRO) to be reopened to provide for the division of pension assets pursuant to a court order.

SECTION 105—ENTITLEMENT OF DIVORCED SPOUSES TO RAILROAD RETIREMENT ANNUITIES INDEPENDENT OF ACTUAL ENTITLEMENT OF EMPLOYEE

Problem—Under the Railroad Retirement System a divorced wife is automatically entitled to 50% of her husband's pension under Tier I benefits as long as four conditions are met: 1) the divorced wife and her husband must both be at least 62 years old; 2) the couple must have been married for at least 10 consecutive years; 3) she must not have remarried when she applies; and 4) her former husband must have started collecting his own railroad retirement benefits. There have been situations where a former husband has delayed collection of benefits so as to deny the former wife benefits.

Solution—Eliminate the requirement that the former husband has started collecting his own railroad retirement benefits.

SECTION 201—EXTENSION OF TIER II RAILROAD RETIREMENT BENEFITS TO SURVIVING FORMER SPOUSES PURSUANT TO DIVORCE AGREEMENTS

Problem—The Tier I benefits under the Railroad Retirement Board take the place of social security. The Tier II benefits take the place of a private pension. Under current law, a divorced widow loses any court ordered Tier II benefits she may have been receiving while her ex-husband was alive, leaving her with only a Tier I annuity.

Solution—Allow payment of a Tier II survivor annuity after divorce.

SECTION 202—SURVIVOR ANNUITIES FOR WIDOWS, WIDOWERS, AND FORMER SPOUSES OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES WHO DIE BEFORE ATTAINING AGE FOR DEFERRED ANNUITY UNDER CSRS

Problem—In the case of a husband dying before collecting benefits, his contributions to the Civil Service Retirement System are paid to the person named as the "beneficiary." The employee may name anyone as the beneficiary. A divorce court cannot order him to name his former spouse as the beneficiary to receive a refund of contributions upon his death, even if she was to receive a portion of his pension.

Solution—Authorize courts to order the ex-husband to name his former wife as the beneficiary of all or a portion of any refunded contributions.

SECTION 203—COURT ORDERS RELATING TO FEDERAL RETIREMENT BENEFITS FOR FORMER SPOUSES OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

Problem—Currently, under CSRS, if the husband dies after leaving the government (either before or after retirement age) and before starting to collect retirement benefits, no retirement or survivor benefits are payable to the spouse or former spouse.

Solution—Make widow or divorced widow benefits payable no matter when the ex-husband dies or starts collecting his benefits.

SECTION 301—SMALL 401(K) PLANS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE ANNUAL INVESTMENT REPORTS TO PARTICIPANTS

Problem—Current law requires that pension plans file an annual detailed investment report with the Treasury Department and make it available to any participant upon request. Pension plans, including 401(k)s, with fewer than 100 participants and beneficiaries are not required to file or make detailed investment reports available to participants. 401(k)s, unlike traditional pension plans, do not have the plan sponsor guaranteeing their pension benefits nor do they have PBGC pension insurance. Consequently small 401(k) participants bear the investment risks, but are not told what the investments are.

Solution—The Secretary of Labor must issue regulations requiring small 401(k) plans to provide each participant with an annual investment report. The details of the report are left to the Secretary.

SECTION 302—SECTION 401(K) INVESTMENT PROTECTION

Problem—Under federal law, a traditional defined benefit pension plan may not invest more than 10% of its assets in the company sponsoring the plan. The purpose of the limitation is to protect employees from losing their jobs and pensions at the same time. The 10% limitation does not apply to 401(k) plans, despite their having become the predominant form of pension plan, enrolling 23 million employees and investing more than \$675 billion.

Solution—Apply the 10% limit to employee contributions to 401(k) plans—unless the participants, not the company sponsoring the plan, make the investment decisions.

SECTION 401—MODIFICATIONS OF JOINT AND SURVIVOR ANNUITY REQUIREMENTS

Problem—Under current federal law, traditional defined benefit pension plans can offer unequal survivor benefit options. That option can pay the surviving spouse (most often the wife) only half the survivor's benefit paid to the spouse who participated in the plan. Plans may, but are not required, to offer more equitable options. Current law also requires that pension plans disclose retirement benefit options to one spouse, the spouse who participated in the plan. This leaves the other spouse (usually the wife) uninformed about an irrevocable decision that affects her income for the rest of her life.

Solution—Require that pension plans offer an additional option that provides either surviving spouse with two-thirds of the benefit received while both were alive. Require that both spouses be given a illustration of benefits before any benefit can be chosen.

SECTION 501—SPOUSAL CONSENT REQUIRED FOR DISTRIBUTIONS FROM SECTION 401(K) PLANS

Problem—Under current federal law, in order for a plan participant to take a lump sum distribution from a defined benefit plan, the participant must have the consent of his or her spouse. This is not true of a 401(k) plan. This means that a participant can, at any time, drain his or her pension plan and leave the spouse with no access to retirement savings.

Solution—Require that 401(k) plans be covered by the same spousal consent protections as defined plans when it comes to lump-sum distributions.

SECTION 601—WOMEN'S PENSION TOLL-FREE PHONE NUMBER

Problem—One of the key obstacles to women's pension security is lack of information. Too many women do not know whether or not they are eligible for retirement income, the implications of the decisions they are asked to make regarding divorce and survivor benefits, the steps they should take to provide for a secure retirement, or even how to gather the necessary information.

Solution—Create a women's pension hotline that can provide basic information to women regarding pension law and their options under that law.

SECTION 701—PERIODIC PENSION BENEFITS STATEMENTS

Problem—Under federal law, pension plans are required to provide a benefits statement annually, upon request by the employee. Many employees, especially young employees, do not consider pension income or do not feel secure requesting information from their employer. Thus, many employees do not know the amount of their accrued benefits, or payout upon retirement. In addition, there are numerous instances of defined contribution plans misappropriating money by failing to place funds in the employee's account. Unless an employee asks for a statement, he or she does not have a clear idea of the state of his or her retirement security, or if the funds are being properly placed.

Solution—Require that 401(k) plans provide benefits statements automatically at least once year. For defined benefit plans, due to the more complicated calculation required to produce an accurate future benefits statement, require that a statement be automatically provided every three years.

UPON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE
"DEPOSITORY INSTITUTION AFFILIATION ACT"**HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. LAFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be the chief Democratic cosponsor of H.R. 669, the Depository Institution Affiliation Act, introduced by Chairman RICHARD BAKER. The goal of modernizing our financial services industry has been a longstanding objective of mine and many other Members of Congress, as well as many in the financial services industry. Unfortunately, that goal has eluded us to date.

The purpose of any financial modernization legislation should be to encourage the development of a competitive and efficient financial services system. Such a system should provide consumers with financial services at the lowest possible cost, while at the same time ensuring safety and soundness. In fact, a competitive industry providing a broader range of services enhances the safety and soundness of the industry, rather than reducing it. Indeed, it is the narrowness and rigidity of the bank charter that has been responsible for the banking industry's loss of market share over the past several decades.

There are several different approaches to financial modernization being discussed in this Congress, as has been the case in all previous debates. Of all of these, Chairman BAKER's legislation—which is the companion to Senator D'AMATO's bill in the Senate—is the broadest, and therefore I believe offers the best opportunity for Congress to debate the full range of issues related to modernization. It is expected that the administration will soon present its own proposal to Congress, and I believe it also will be broad in scope. In order to get the job done, it is critical that we work on a bipartisan basis and in close cooperation with the Senate and the administration.

If we are to seriously take up the modernization issue, we must not restrict ourselves to considering only delimited legislation which addresses a very finite array of issues. Such legislation is necessary too narrow in scope to reflect the rapidly changing financial services market. Nor should we assume that legislation passed by the Banking Committee in previous years is a model for reform today. As the financial marketplace evolves, Congress must explore that evolution. We must attempt to understand its implications, ask critical questions about the most effective means of regulating new developments, and only then consider the most effective legislative vehicle for achieving reform.

Despite our previous failures to pass legislation, the debate in Congress over financial modernization has been progressing along with the evolution in the marketplace. Indeed, issues on which there was major disagreement in past debates are now a matter of near consensus. For example, many now agree that the total separation between commercial and investment banking is artificial in today's financial world.

No bill before this House has yet found the perfect resolution of the many issues we must

address, including this one. But our bill has the advantage of raising the full range of issues we must study if we are to legislate intelligently. First, we need to understand more fully the appropriate relationship between banking and commerce. The affiliation of banks with commercial firms is an issue with a long and controversial history, and one on which many have strong and often contradictory opinions. However, very few of us adequately understand the rationale for allowing affiliations between banking and nonbanking or commercial firms. It is difficult to even agree on the meaning of the word "commercial."

The proposal to allow banks to affiliate with commercial firms should not be an ideological issue requiring one to take sides. There are beneficial aspects to linkages between banking and commercial firms, as well as some very legitimate concerns which should be addressed. I believe it is possible to strike a balance. We can place appropriate limitations on the affiliations between banks and commercial firms, while retaining the benefits of such affiliations and recognizing that companies in which some mix of banking and commerce already exists have posed no harm and done much good.

We also need to recognize that there are a broad range of nonbanking activities that some might consider "commercial." Some of these are clearly financial in nature and have a close relationship to banking. Other nonbanking activities are technological in nature, making them crucial to the ability of banking organizations to compete with nonbank firms offering similar technology-based financial products. Other nonbanking activities involve making passive equity investments in commercial firms.

Before making any definitive decisions about the combination of banking and commercial firms, we need to understand more fully some of the complexities involved. This bill will contribute to that debate.

Second, we need to gain a better understanding of holding company regulation—whether it is needed, and what is its proper scope. In particular, we need to explore the question of whether a holding company is the most effective means of promoting competitiveness in the financial services market. In short, we need to understand the benefits as well as the disadvantages of a holding company structure.

Third, we need a more thorough understanding of how functional regulation would operate in reality. The basic concept is simple, but its application is not. The current regulatory structure mirrors to some degree the truncated system it regulates. A new system cannot so readily be forced back into an old framework.

On all these questions, our goal should be to maintain an openmind, and explore the issues fully. I encourage my colleagues to engage in as far-reaching a debate as possible, because that process will result in a superior legislative product.

I congratulate Chairman BAKER for his ongoing contribution to the vital goal of financial services modernization and pledge my support to work for a bill that addresses the issues in the most comprehensive way possible.

THE CITIZENS' CHOICE ACT

HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker. It has been clear for many years that our campaign finance system must be reformed. Recent events have raised public awareness of this need, and I am glad that the issue is now near the top of our agenda.

Reforming our campaign finance system is one of the most difficult problems before Congress. In the past, sweeping comprehensive reform has yielded a multitude of unintended consequences. Our campaign system is complex, and it will not yield to easy solutions or quick fixes. That is why I am introducing legislation that takes a small but important step in the right direction—toward limiting campaign spending and leveling the playing field between challengers and incumbents.

My bill, the Citizens' Choice Act, creates a voluntary system of publicly financed general elections to the U.S. House of Representatives. Under my bill, a House of Representatives general election trust fund would be funded by a voluntary \$5 check-off on income tax returns, and would consist of one account per political party in every congressional district. Candidates who accepted money from this fund must agree to spend no more than \$600,000 on their campaigns. The spending limit would be waived if a candidate's opponent refuses to participate in the public funding and raises at least \$100,000. My bill also includes a blanket prohibition on all House general election candidates from loaning more than \$500,000 to their own campaigns.

My bill addresses the most common criticism of public financing proposals: that taxpayers should not subsidize the campaigns of candidates they oppose. That is why I would allow people to choose which party would receive their tax dollars. This eliminates the problem, while creating greater opportunity for citizens to get involved in the electoral process.

Mr. Speaker, some Members are too ready to believe that citizens strongly oppose public financing. I believe it is time for Congress to take another look at public financing of campaigns. Widespread frustration with our current system has grown to the point that Americans demand new solutions. People want fair campaigns, and I believe the American people will understand that an appropriate combination of public financing and spending limits is an effective way to govern our campaign system. I also feel that citizens will welcome the opportunity to support our political system through my proposed check-off.

I urge my colleagues to look beyond any preconceived notions they may have about public financing of campaigns, and support legislation that gives citizens a choice in financing our electoral process.

THE DIAMOND ROAR OF THE BAY
CITY LION'S CLUB

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, in addition to keeping full-time jobs, volunteers spend long and tireless hours helping others while in return they are not paid and receive no financial gain. A truly dedicated and committed group of volunteers, the Lions Club of Bay City, will celebrate its 75th anniversary on February 22, 1997. The Lions Club of Bay City has made an indisputable difference for the citizens of Bay City.

Chartered on December 8, 1921, the club has had more than 1,205 members during its 75 years in existence. Thirty-five local community-spirited men who were committed to improving their community founded the club. They established the club's motto: "We Serve," and serve they did. The club continues their legacy, serving the citizens of Bay City with a dedicated spirit and wholehearted devotion.

The Lions Club of Bay City has raised more than \$1 million which they have used to improve the lives of many citizens. Under the capable leadership of the club's president, Leonard Kaczorowski, the 238 members have completed many incredible projects throughout Bay City, including providing services for vision and hearing impaired individuals. The club also built and developed a park pavilion while at the same time completing work on a playground in Bigelow Park.

The club should be proud of its accomplishments and of its impressive membership numbers. The Bay City chapter is the largest Lions Club in Michigan, the 5th largest in the United States, and the 15th largest in the world.

The loyal volunteers represent the spirit of volunteerism and community service that has made our country one of the greatest Nations in the world. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing the Bay City Lions Club a hearty congratulations for 75 years of success.

IN HONOR OF ALEX SMITH ON HIS
90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues the great achievements of Alex Smith and the East Side Peace Action Committee. This outstanding organization in my district has worked for 40 years on world peace and nuclear disarmament issues.

The East Side Peace Action Committee, which has been led by Mr. Smith for 40 years, was born out of the Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy in 1957. It was established in a time when Americans first felt fear over the threat of nuclear war. Early on, the members of the East Side chapter recognized the dangers of stockpiling nuclear weapons and band-

ed together to work on ending "mutually assured destruction," or MAD, as a national campaign. Participants in this cause have included Eleanor Roosevelt, Dr. Benjamin Spock, Senator Wayne Morse, Norman Cousins, and many others.

The East Side chapter would not have been so successful if it were not for Mr. Alex Smith, a long time resident of the 14th Congressional District. Mr. Smith has spearheaded the East Side chapter and served our community since 1957. He is a remarkable leader and organizer and has received widespread recognition for his work on peace issues and for ending the threat of nuclear annihilation. His labor and struggle has truly made our world a safer place, especially now that the chances of nuclear war has greatly diminished.

Alex Smith, for the past 40 years, has been an advocate for eliminating nuclear weapons and has provided leadership for the East Side Peace Action Committee. It is for these reasons and many more that I would like to recognize Mr. Smith on his 90th birthday.

SALUTE TO AN OUTSTANDING
MILWAUKEEAN

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to salute one of Milwaukee's outstanding citizens, Bonnie Szortyka Peterson.

Ms. Peterson is featured in February's Milwaukee Magazine in a story called "One Woman's War." It's an appropriate title for a remarkable woman. The article calls Ms. Peterson "the State's staunchest advocate for the blind" and "the toughest critic of the system built to help them." I'm sure those who read the article will agree.

I ask that the article be included in the RECORD.

ONE WOMAN'S WAR

(By Mary Van de Kamp Nohl)

The state's staunchest advocate for the blind is the toughest critic of the system built to help them. How Bonnie Peterson became a rebel, "the blind bitch" and the last hope for those who are about to give up hope.

Long after the other teens at the sleepover party had stopped talking about the job fair at New Berlin High School and dozed off, 15-year-old Bonnie Szortyka lay awake. It was 1968, and Bonnie had dreamt of becoming an airline stewardess, but now the dream was dead. A stewardess had to have perfect vision.

She thought of becoming a teacher, but no, a teacher had to see a student with his hand raised and Bonnie could see a hand only if it was held a foot from her face. A teacher had to keep up with all of the paperwork and Bonnie could not.

As hard as she had worked to hide her blindness, the truth was catching up with her. Her Herculean effort to eke out passing grades by putting in three times the hours her classmates did, writing with her nose scraping across a page until the headaches became intolerable, the endless hours spent with her mother reading schoolwork to her—all of it was for naught.

Visions of careers, husbands and children filled the heads of the slumbering teens around her, but as dawn approached, Bonnie could not imagine any job that would allow her to leave home and have a life of her own. Just taking up space and air and food without giving anything back, she thought, was no life at all.

The next night, knowing that it was a sin that would send her straight to hell and disgrace her family, but unable to pretend anymore, Bonnie Szortyka chocked down the contents of a giant economy bottle of aspirin. She went to bed and waited to die.

Her body began to shake uncontrollably, but it was the sudden deathly silence, the nothingness of death that terrified her and she dragged herself to the living room where her parents were watching TV. Bonnie didn't die, but the girl released from West Allis Memorial Hospital the next day to her sobbing father had changed. She didn't want to die anymore; she wanted to fight.

Born of despair and nurtured by anger, the seed planted that night would grow into a lifetime crusade. Today, at age 44, Bonnie Szortyka Peterson, an adjunct public speaking professor at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside and president of the National Federation of the Blind of Wisconsin (NFB), battles negative attitudes toward blindness and the low expectations and wasted lives that grow out of them.

Yet those negative attitudes—held by both the sighted and the blind—are the bedrock of the system Wisconsin has built to help this state's 50,000 legally blind individuals, Peterson ways, "a system that makes the disabled more dependent instead of independent."

Says Peterson: "What happens to blind people in Wisconsin today is just like what happened to the black slaves. We're being kept in our place . . . kept from reading, writing and connecting, from moving up."

Peterson's personal war has taken her to testify before the state Legislature and U.S. Congress. It has made her an enemy of the state teachers' union and a critic of Wisconsin's school for the blind. She has targeted the state's vocational training programs and battled sheltered workshops for the disabled. Her candor has made her both villain and hero. Civil servants call her "the blind bitch"; members of the blind community call her their "last hope."

It's said that blindness and death are the things people fear most, but Peterson ways blindness need not be any more limiting than shortness or obesity. "It just requires alternative ways of doing things: Braille instead of print, a cane instead of using your eyes to get around." With her long white cane, she navigates the maze of state offices with such finesse that less skilled visually impaired civil servants suggest she is faking her blindness. "It is so hard for them to imagine a successful blind person, they have to think that," she says.

A person is legally blind when his vision is 20/200; that is, he has one-tenth the visual acuity of a normal sighted person. Medical records show Peterson's vision, at 20/300, is worse than that. There are 6.4 million visually impaired individuals in the United States: Twenty-seven percent are legally blind like Peterson. Only 6 percent have no vision at all. For most, blindness is not a black-and-white issue, but a shade of gray.

Like the country's revolutionary founders, Peterson believes that an overbearing government eats out the substance of a man. Last fall, when state agencies staged a seminar for rehabilitation workers and their clients, one session was called "Sexuality and

Disabilities." Says Peterson: "Most people have sex with their eyes closed anyway, but these people think we're so helpless we can't even make love without them helping us. It makes me want to cry."

But Peterson doesn't want compassion. When an area charity offered to raise money for the Federation by showing helpless blind children in order to "tug at the heart-strings and loosen donors' purse strings," she turned it down. "We don't need more pictures of pathetic blind people."

Peterson vowed to fight her war without them. But she is fighting a battle against entrenched special interests. She is battling bureaucratic arrogance and incompetence at a time when the public has become so numb to government scandal it may barely notice. But none of this will make Bonnie Peterson stop fighting.

BIRTH OF A REBEL

Bonnie Szortyka was only a few months old when her parents, Chet and Adelaine, realized that their baby's eyes did not follow them when they moved. When Bonnie was 3 years old, a doctor at Mayo Clinic gave them no hope. "You have to consider her totally blind and send her away to a school for the blind. Period. That's it," her mother recalls the doctor saying. The Szortykas could not bear to send the eldest of their three children away. They raised her the only way they knew, like a normal child who just happened to have very bad vision.

It was the 1950s and Milwaukee Public Schools faced an epidemic of blind children. Most, like Bonnie, had been born prematurely. The oxygen that had helped their underdeveloped lungs function was blamed for destroying their fragile optic nerves. Bonnie was legally blind, but she had enough vision to keep her from getting into MPS' school for blind children immediately. At age 5, she was on a three-year waiting list.

Adelaine worried about what her daughter's future would be if she didn't get a proper education. "Is there a Braille class I can take to teach her?" she asked MPS officials. "They said, 'Not here, maybe in Iowa.'"

The Milwaukee Catholic Archdiocese's schools had no special-education classes, but the nuns at St. Stanislaus School were willing to help. By second grade, Bonnie was reading with a book pressed to her face, focusing laboriously on one word, then the next. Bonnie drank gallons of carrot juice; she visited a faith healer. Doctor after doctor told her parents, "I've never seen a girl with this bad of vision [who is] this well-adjusted. She doesn't act like a blind person," her mother recalls.

Bonnie was the great pretender. On the Polish South Side of Milwaukee, First Communion Day was a family event. The Szortyka's living room was crowded with relatives when an aunt insisted that Bonnie read her Communion cards aloud. But when Bonnie held the card to her eye to see it, the aunt berated her. "Don't make fun of people like that!" Bonnie burst into tears. Alone in her room, she thought, "I am one of those people. Why don't they know that?"

By sixth grade, severe eye strain caused constant headaches. "I didn't even know that everyone didn't have this pain until I was 30 years old," she says. Eye strain led to nystagmus, a continuous jerky involuntary movement of Bonnie's eye muscles, making reading even more daunting. Bonnie slept with her nose pressed into the pillow, hoping to flatten it and thus get closer to her books.

When Bonnie was 12, a Milwaukee doctor told her parents he could make a special pair of eye glasses. Bonnie eagerly donned the

thick lenses and began to read the eye chart. Her mother was ecstatic. The doctor seemed delighted, but then, as she read further, his voice changed. "What's wrong?" her mother asked. "She's memorized the chart," the doctor said.

"My mother was so mad at me. I was only trying to make her happy. She was always so sad when the doctors couldn't help," Bonnie remembers. "I said, 'Why can't you just love me like I am now?'"

Her father said there would be no more eye exams. Still, Bonnie was expected to do chores like everyone else. She scrubbed the floor, and if she missed a spot, her mother would say, "You missed something. Rub your hand over the floor to find the spot or wash it all over again until it's done," Bonnie remembers. "You don't find excuses, you find a way to get it done right. . . . My mother told me, 'You can do anything you make up your mind to do.'"

But at school, that wasn't enough. "They'd praise me for being able to write my name—that's how low their expectations were for me," she says. "The other kids knew I was getting praise for things every one did. They called me 'blindy.'" The only way to get her teachers to demand as much of her as they did from her sighted peers, Peterson says now, was to "get them mad." By eighth grade, she was a master at that.

Remembers her teacher, the former Sister Dorothy Roache: "We had constant terrible, I mean really terrible, arguments. I told Bonnie she needed to learn Braille. She wouldn't consider it. She wanted to be like everyone else and she insisted on keeping up with the class, earning good grades in spite of herself."

In high school, Bonnie made friends, dated boys, won gold medals for her singing. She was a finalist in the Miss West Allis pageant. A girlfriend who sold makeup taught her how to apply it. "That girl didn't have any special training in teaching the blind *** but no one ever told her blind people can't use makeup." Bonnie soon sold Vivian Woodard cosmetics, too. "I couldn't tell people what colors looked good on them, so I said, 'You can experiment.' It turned out no one like being told what to do, and I sold so much I kept winning sales awards," she says.

But as well-adjusted as Bonnie appeared outside, the suicide attempt left her parents with lingering fears. During the summer of 1971, a counselor from the Wisconsin Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) told the Szortykas that Bonnie needed to attend a three-week residential college prep program at the century-old Wisconsin School for the Visually Handicapped (WSVH) in Janesville. The counselor was blind himself. "I could hear him writing Braille as fast as my mother could talk, and for the first time, I thought, 'I might want to learn this,'" Bonnie remembers.

But when the Szortykas arrived at the school, "students were groping around, making weird undignified gestures, bumping into things," says Bonnie. Her mother didn't want her to stay, but Bonnie shouted over her shoulder, "These are my people now."

Bonnie asked about Braille but was told she didn't need it. Many of the students at the school for the blind were doubly disabled. Coddled by their parents and teachers they had never been expected to observe even rudimentary rules of decorum. The boy across the table from Bonnie ate with his hands, making loud slurping sounds. "Can't you teach him to use silverware?" Bonnie demanded. "He was a smart guy, but how was he going to have any friends at college if he ate like that?"

Bonnie noticed another dichotomy. There were two "classes" of students: the "partials," who had some sight, and the "totals," who were completely blind. The "partials" had more freedom; they were the leaders. "Totals," like a woman Bonnie befriended named Pat, spent their days in their rooms. "They only led her out to eat, just like a dog," she says.

"All they cared about was how much people could see, not how much they could learn," says Bonnie, who refused to let anyone know just how bad her vision was. She couldn't see the steps in front of her, but she marched up the staircase with the "totals" hanging onto each other behind her. She carried serving dishes to the dinner table, where one of the "totals" banged her fork on her plate, demanding Bonnie serve her some peas. "I couldn't believe it," she says. "These were adults and they were treating them like babies, then sending them out in the world. No wonder they can't make it."

Bonnie's college prep classes turned out to be "easy pseudo college stuff." She decided to get a suntan instead. No one complained. "I had never even thought of skipping a class before," she says, but expectations and standards were different at WSVH.

Students warned Bonnie that the principal liked to get girls alone in his office. "They said he had sex with them," she says now. "I thought it was a joke or a scare tactic until the house mother and the nurse warned me, too. It didn't make sense that he would still be there if everybody knew." But one day, he cornered her. "He was talking about how pretty I was *** trying to rub himself against me," says Bonnie. "I said, 'If you touch me, I'll have your job.' He moved away and said he could see me in 10 years, with a baby in my arms and two tugging at my skirt, implying that I'd never move up. I said, 'Well, at least they won't be yours,' and I hurried out of there." (Years later, the principal was charged with sexually assaulting another 17-year-old student, then acquitted.)

Bonnie told another student about her encounter and the two of them took a cab to a liquor store and bought the biggest bottle of Mogan David wine they could find. That night, on the schoolyard grounds, they drank it all. "I had never had a drink before . . . but I was scared I'd end up being led around like these people, without a job, without any purpose in life, I had more doubts about my future than I had ever had," Bonnie says. "I knew then I would never let anyone know I was blind and have people talk down to me like I was a moron. I'd die first."

The police found the pair drunk and returned them to the school. The summer program was drawing to a close, Bonnie recalls, and "they told us to leave and never come back."

BLIND AMBITION

In the summer of 1972, after her freshman year as a music major at (the now-defunct) Milton College near Janesville, Bonnie fell in love with a 23-year-old Milwaukee police aide named Joel Peterson. Bonnie didn't want to go back to college, but if she stayed home, her father said, she had to have a job. She had 24 hours. Bonnie phoned the DVR counselor. He landed her a job assembling pens at Industries for the Blind. Congress had established sheltered workshops like this in 1939 as a stepping stone for the disabled. Because they offer "training," workshops are allowed to pay less than minimum wage and they get priority on government contracts. But the truth is, few of the blind ever leave sheltered workshops for better

jobs. Even today, most spend their entire working lives at substandard wages.

Industries for the Blind was a union shop so the pay was better than most workshops and more than minimum wage. Bonnie married Peterson the next year. By 1979, she was determined not to spend the rest of her life "in a job where management treated me in the same condescending tone I heard at the school for the blind." She told her DVR counselor she wanted to go to Alverno College and major in professional communications. He laughed.

"Then he told Bonnie, 'You're not dealing with your visual impairment,'" remembers Joel, now a Milwaukee police detective. "And he said Bonnie should go to MATC and learn how to keep house first." That prompted Joel to stand up, displaying the full girth of his 6-foot-4-inch frame, and he asked, "Do I look like a guy who hasn't been fed well?" Bonnie baked homemade bread and made fresh pasta, trading some of it for rides and bartering the services of readers who would record printed matter for her.

The counselor told Peterson the DVR would send her to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee because it had services for disabled students. "I said I was going to Alverno [even] if I had to work or get school loans to pay for it, and I would major in communication," she says now, "but deep inside, I wondered whether he was right, that maybe I couldn't do it."

For three years, Peterson boarded a city bus five days a week at 5:30 a.m. to go to her 40-hour-a-week job to earn money for college. At night and on weekends, she was a full-time student at Alverno. She spent her lunchtimes at Industries for the Blind studying on the floor of the women's restroom, her co-workers' guide dogs helping themselves to the lunch beside her.

On the day her first daughter, Candice, was born, Peterson worked for eight and a half hours, took an exam, then went home and wrote a paper. "I made a deal with the baby that she wouldn't come until I finished," says Bonnie, who made it to the hospital just in time for a nurse to deliver the baby.

Bonnie graduated from Alverno in December 1983. By then, she had worked at Industries in every position on the pen and pencil line, including quality control, so when the plant superintendent retired and his job was split into two positions, production manager and sales manager, Peterson applied. "The president of the company said, 'We'll call you.'"

No one did. Two white non-handicapped males got the jobs. One was the son of the inspector who approved the workshop's government work. In its 32-year history, the \$18-million-a-year 112-employee Industries for the Blind had never employed a handicapped individual in any supervisory, managerial or even clerical position, Peterson discovered. "Maybe I'm not qualified," said Peterson, "but certainly someone in all those years was qualified to be a janitor, a secretary or something besides a laborer."

Peterson hired an attorney and filed a complaint with the federal government, but she was becoming a pariah. Rumors circulated that because of what she'd done, blind people would lose their jobs. Peterson re-read the recommendations her Alverno professors had written, testimonials to her problem-solving abilities, communication skills and "spirited determination," but she was losing faith.

"I think Bonnie believed that if she filed that suit, they'd wake up and give her a chance at that job. We all thought she'd be

great at it, but they just ignored her," recalls Carol Farina, a supervisor at Industries.

Peterson knew she was in over her head and turned to the two national organizations that advocate for the blind. An attorney with The American Council for the Blind phoned, asking for Peterson's attorney's name, and sent a letter indicating modest support. The National Federation of the Blind responded with boxes of documentation involving similar cases and asked Bonnie to testify before Congress on the lack of upward mobility for the disabled in the workshops intended to help them.

In January 1985, the U.S. Department of Labor found that Industries for the Blind had violated federal affirmative action rules by failing to recruit and advance women and blind people. It found no evidence that the firm had discriminated against Peterson personally.

Within a year, Peterson left Industries. She earned a master's degree in organizational communication from Marquette University, formed a production company and created the first cable access television show produced by an entirely blind crew. But the newest challenge would come from her own daughter.

THE "BLIND BITCH"

Candice wanted her mother to read *Dumbo*, but when Bonnie held the book to her eye, then showed the picture to Candice, the 3-year-old pulled the book away, saying, "No, Daddy read."

"I still remember what I heard in her words. It was, 'You are stupid. . . .' It hurt so bad. I didn't care what all those professionals who were trying to help me kept telling me," Peterson says. "I knew I had to learn Braille."

It took only two months with the help of the National Federation of the Blind, which had already taught her to travel with a cane. "It was a turning point," she says. "I learned to be proud of being blind once I had something to be proud of." Peterson's confidence was growing, and in 1986, she was elected president of the Wisconsin NFB. Appointments to the state advisory Council on Blindness and other boards followed, and Peterson became an advocate for others.

For six years, a teacher of the visually impaired had worked with a 9-year-old Burlington girl whose vision was 20/400 and deteriorating, but the girl was falling further and further behind. Peterson and the child's mother sat on one side of the table, the special-education experts on the other. When the woman said she wanted her daughter to learn Braille, the vision teacher shook her fist in the mother's face. "It's almost like you want your child to be blind!" the mother remembers the teacher saying. "Don't you know? Blindness is like a cancer! It's the worst thing that can happen to you."

The teacher's remark took Peterson's breath away. "No, No," she said, "the worst thing that can happen to a child is for them to be uneducated." Bonnie remembered the incident years later when Sandy Guerra phoned with a similar case. A Racine School District teacher of the visually impaired had worked with Guerra's 12-year-old daughter, Melissa McCabe, since she was 3. Yet the teacher had never taught the girl Braille.

"She kept trying to make Melissa see. If she stares a long time, five minutes on a word, Melissa can see almost anything, but for only a few seconds and it hurts her eyes so bad, she gets terrible migraines," Guerra says. Melissa was already two and a half years behind her fifth-grade classmates. The

vision teacher had read standardized exams to Melissa, helping her get the right answers, so her test scores never revealed just how far behind she was—until Melissa's regular fifth-grade teacher ended the charade. "In good conscience, I could not pass Melissa on to sixth grade," says the teacher, Rose Mikaelian.

Up until then, no one had ever expected much of Melissa. She was given half the class' spelling words, though when Mikaelian recruited a volunteer tutor, the girl could do them all. By middle school, the tutor was gone and Melissa was getting Fs again. Her new vision teacher suggested giving Melissa "10 free bonus points on everything to make her feel better."

At a meeting with school officials, Bonnie urged that the girl be taught Braille. "You'd have thought the district would have thought of that," says Mikaelian. "No one challenged Bonnie. She was always in charge." But Peterson could not guarantee that Melissa would be taught Braille, and there are many others like her.

In 1965, 48 percent of Wisconsin's blind children could read Braille, but by 1993, the literacy rate had plummeted to 4 percent, less than half the national average. No wonder, thought Peterson, that the unemployment rate for legally blind individuals between the ages of 21 and 64 in Wisconsin was 74.4 percent, the worst of any minority group. And nearly half of those working were underemployed. "When sighted people can't get around independently, can't read or have poor social skills, we know that's poor training. When the blind can't get around independently, can't read or have poor social skills, we think that's the way blind people are," she says.

With the rush to embrace new technology, like giant magnifiers and machines that can read a printed page, there was a philosophical shift and many teachers felt children could manage without Braille, says Marsha Valance, librarian at the Wisconsin Regional Library for the Blind and Handicapped. "Unfortunately, that was not always true."

The NFB had looked into the illiteracy of the blind and concluded that many teachers didn't know Braille well enough to teach it. So Peterson asked state Rep. Fred Riser (D-Madison) to introduce a bill requiring all teachers of the visually impaired to pass a test proving they knew Braille. Riser expected it to be a cakewalk. State Sen. Alberta Darling (R-River Hills), a former teacher herself, called it "common sense." But the Braille Bill ran into a blitzkrieg.

The Wisconsin Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Handicapped and the larger state teachers' union had myriad arguments against it: It discriminated against teachers of the visually impaired because other teachers did not have to prove their competence; they didn't like the Library of Congress' National Braille Literacy Test; kids don't like learning Braille; and it's difficult to teach.

The unions insisted the state's 825 teachers of the visually impaired had already learned Braille in college. "Asking teachers of the visually impaired to take courses in Braille is like asking teachers of the sighted to take courses in the alphabet," scoffs Charles Siemers, an MPS teacher of the visually impaired who fought the bill. He calls Peterson "the blind bitch" and says she "slandered me and my profession by saying we're poorly prepared. Besides," insists Siemers, who is legally blind himself, "if we can get people to use what vision they have, it's always much, much better."

It might be easier for the teachers, Peterson says, but not for kids who, being functionally blind, cannot hope to compete with their sighted peers, even working endless hours and straining what little sight they have.

The Department of Public Instruction, under whose watch blind literacy sank so low, hired an outside firm to evaluate the proposed legislation. "The bureaucrats wanted it their way or no way, and Bonnie Peterson wouldn't budge," says Andrew Papineau, administrator of DPI's visually impaired programs. "So I brought in a neutral person."

The "so-called 'independent' consultant had some interesting findings," says Sen. Darling. They argued that children are "better off with an aide and a computer than to be able to use a \$5.50 slate and stylus [the plastic ruler-sized implement and point that allows the user to punch out a code of raised dots that can be read using the fingertips]. 'If you give people fish,' says Darling, 'they have food for a day. If you give them a fishing rod, they have food for life. That's Braille. But they told me kids shouldn't learn Braille because then they'd 'look blind.'" Darling remembers, "and they said a lot of kids had multiple disabilities so they couldn't learn Braille." The blind, deaf and mute Helen Keller must have been spinning in her grave.

Peterson told the Legislature: "If only 4 percent of sighted children could read print, no one would dispute the severity of the problem." Opponents of the Braille Bill stumbled and tripped on their way up to the podium to testify. Siemers had broken his glasses and couldn't read his speech. "Those who were in favor of the bill walked to the podium perfectly with their canes, and they had their notes in Braille—nothing could stop them," says Darling.

Few legislators missed the little irony that had been played out before them. The bill passed, but the bill's opponents lobbied DPI and undercut it. Only new teachers would have to pass the test. Existing teachers could take a Braille refresher course or attend a teachers' convention instead. There was one victory. Now, when a legally blind child is not taught Braille in Wisconsin, the school district must put the reason in writing.

But Peterson had made enemies. Says Siemers, who took early retirement last year: "Bonnie Peterson and her Federation members are like dogs who bit the hands that feed them, the professionals who try to help them." Ironically, it was that attitude—"How dare you question me when I'm here to help you"—that Peterson had set out to eradicate.

RETURN TO THE SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

Even before the Braille Bill took effect in 1995, Peterson was engaged on another battlefield. In the fall of 1994, Wisconsin's school for the blind, WSVH, faced the budget cuts affecting all of state government, but the school's staff was painting a picture of suffering blind children. In truth, the school would only have to close one of its under-utilized cafeterias and put younger children in the same half-used educational building with other students.

The school had come under fire before; the preceding June, the Legislative Audit Bureau pointed out that WSVH maintained a staff/student ratio of almost one to three—even when students were sleeping. The school was operating at less than 40 percent capacity, with a staff of 110 to care for just 80 students. (Enrollment is now 75.)

While picketers prepared signs saying the governor didn't care about poor blind kids, Peterson and the NFB cut through their sad refrain. "What does WSVH offer that's worth paying 10 times more per student than school districts spend?" Peterson asked. "You could hire a private tutor for each of these kids for \$68,200."

The Federation didn't want the school to close—parents needed options, Peterson said—but it had to operate more effectively. Too many of its graduates end up unemployed or underemployed and "socialized for dependency," she said, describing WSVH graduates as "fodder for government-supported workshops."

William S. Koehler, the school's superintendent, accused Peterson of trying to destroy WSVH, complaining, "She takes direct shots at the school without ever being here." Peterson admits she has not been at the school since Koehler took office in 1992. "I don't need to, I have all kinds of parents and children who have been there. They're my eyes and ears." Peterson relies on people like the mother of a 7-year-old boy, left with 20/2200 vision after surgery to remove a tumor, who withdrew her son because WSVH insisted he use a magnifier instead of teaching him Braille.

Koehler says the school did an "extensive" telephone survey in 1993 that proves its graduates are successful, but when Milwaukee Magazine asked for a copy, repeatedly, from Koehler, his assistant and even from DPI, it was promised but never forthcoming. "If WSVH is doing such a great job making kids independent, why does the state pay tens of thousands of dollars to send so many of its graduates to programs to help them adjust to their blindness?" Peterson asks.

Milwaukee Magazine's won investigation included extensive interviews with parents and students and a day-long visit to WSVH, which revealed some students learning Braille but more struggling to read, some with giant magnifiers. Koehler offered a score of excuses why kids can't or don't want to learn Braille or use a cane, but no ideas on how to get students motivated and excited about learning.

He stressed that the school's goal was producing independent graduates, but subtle signs gave a different message. In classroom after classroom, students waited to be helped. In the first- to third-grade classroom, for example, three staff members supervised just seven students who were painting a rubber fish and pressing it onto a T-shirt to make an impression. Yet the students spent most of their time waiting to be helped, teacher's hand over their hand, instead of learning to do the project themselves.

Koehler supplied the names of two graduates who, he said, would demonstrate just how well WSVH prepares its students. One was Steve Hessen, the school's 1996 valedictorian. But Hessen was hardly the model of an independent blind person. He had just dropped out of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater because he couldn't manage the financial aid application process. Without the money, Hessen, whose vision is 20/1500, could not hire the tutor he needed nor rent equipment like a talking Braille calculator. He had fallen hopelessly behind. Worse yet, the scholarship he'd won required him to enroll last fall or it would be canceled. Hessen had asked a WSVH counselor to argue that it should carry over to next year.

The school's previous valedictorian was Shannon Gates, now a student at Northcentral Technical College in Wausau. Gates, who was born without optic nerves in

her eyes, reads Braille at 250 words per minute, but she dropped courses this year because she couldn't get Braille texts.

State taxpayers pay Northcentral's Visually Impaired Program (VIP) to help students like Gates. The program supplied her with audio tapes of textbooks and hired tutors, but "I can't get a Braille text. It's like asking a print reader not to use print," she says. "I threw a fit the first year, but the VIP says, 'It's easier to use tapes or large print.' Maybe it's easier for them. . . but if I had Braille texts, I wouldn't need tutors. I could take a full class load."

Gates was at WSVH for 10 years, under three different administrators. In the end, she says, "There were so many rules, you had to do what you were told and not ask questions. I wasn't even allowed to cross the street alone. . . . The school doesn't encourage independence, that's for sure . . . they were dragging me down."

Twenty-year-old Brian Brown attended WSVH in 1991 and 1992, then returned to his local school and now runs his own business. "They say they strive to make the students independent, but they don't allow you to do anything alone. The bathroom stalls don't even have doors on them in the education building. The house parent enters your room without knocking . . . they walk right in to verify you're in the shower. . . ."

"There are two castes at WSVH," he says, "kids who still want to be somebody and have a life and those who've given up and would rather be told what to do. I was lucky. I left before that happened to me."

Milwaukee Magazine talked to 10 WSVH alumni. All gave anecdotes substantiating Peterson's claim that students are "conditioned to be even more dependent."

Observes Peterson: "Like most of these professionals for the blind, they run a program into the ground, then move on. In Koehler's case, he's already applied for the position of superintendent of the New Mexico School for the Blind, but he didn't get it."

BRAD DUNSE'S LIBERATION

Peterson had a long history of dissatisfaction with the state's two post-high school vocational training programs for the blind: the Visually Impaired Programs (VIP) at Northcentral and Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC). She prompted a state audit of the Milwaukee program by leading picketers protesting its "low standards" and curriculum focused "on housekeeping and grooming skills" instead of on the skills needed to live independently, "like Braille and independent travel." (The state is currently looking for proposals to run that program.)

In 1990, she had fought to get DVR to send a blind man named Bob Raisbeck to a program started by the Federation in Minneapolis called Blindness Learning in New Dimensions (BLIND Inc.). Newspapers there described BLIND Inc.—one of only three programs of its type in the country—as the "Harvard of rehabilitation" and a "boot camp" where the blind learned "to believe in themselves and to be truly independent."

Taxpayers had already sent Raisbeck to the VIP at Northcentral three times and to MATC once, but he still had no job skills. Peterson lobbied legislators. The Madison Capitol Times reported on Raisbeck's story, and still DVR refused. Eventually, Raisbeck moved to Minnesota and that state sent him to BLIND Inc. He found a job and never returned.

All of this was history when Peterson received a phone call in early 1995 from Brad Dunse, who had expected to inherit his father's roofing business until retinitis

pigmentosa left him legally blind. DVR helped Dunse set up a home business, but for five years, he sat in his Green Bay home, terrified of using the power woodworking equipment DVR had given him.

Finally, in 1994, DVR sent Dunse to a program to help him "adjust" to his blindness. He moved into a motel in Wausau where his meals were prepared for him and he was bused to Northcentral's VIP. "It was like an expo where you'd just wander around. But I didn't know what I needed. I've never been blind before," he says.

Dunse sat in on a Braille class, but at the end of two weeks, he didn't even know what a slate and stylus were; the teacher in the computer class was too busy to answer his questions. Says Dunse: "He kidded one man about being there as much as he was. . . . The VIP teaches you just enough to get by, but then this guy's vision would get worse and he'd have to come back. There were a lot of people like that."

Dunse didn't want to spend the rest of his life as a repeat customer, dependent on the state. He called the Federation, asking, "Isn't there something better?" Peterson told him about BLIND Inc. Dunse and his wife, Brenda, went for a visit. He was impressed, he says, by the confidence of the blind travel instructor whose students were so well trained they could be left blindfolded (so they could not rely on any residual vision) five miles from the school and get back on their own.

"At the VIP, they do stuff for you; at BLIND Inc., you do things for yourself," Dunse told a supervisor, but DVR was not convinced. Peterson helped Dunse petition for a special hearing. Remembers Peterson: "The DVR supervisor said, 'I can't understand why anyone would want to go to a school run by the blind. That's like the mentally retarded asking the mentally retarded for help.'"

The tone of the meeting was "very condescending," adds Dunse. "It was me telling them why I wanted to go, and they were telling me all the reasons I didn't."

With his petition rejected, Peterson told Dunse he had only one option. Dunse kissed his wife and two young sons goodbye, gave up his Wisconsin residency and moved to Minneapolis for five months of training. When he graduated from BLIND Inc., he had higher aspirations than a home woodworking business that would never get him off of Social Security Disability Income. He continued his education and took over a vending machine business.

The cost of BLIND Inc. is "a little more than the VIP—a few hundred dollars," says Joe Mileczarek, who runs Northcentral's VIP program. Tuition at BLIND Inc. runs \$2,495 per month, plus \$32.50 per day for housing in an apartment where students prepare their own meals, then travel to classes on their own. For Northcentral's program, hotel, prepared meals and transportation costs another \$50 per day. DVR will spend an average \$2,333 in tuition per student sent to Northcentral this year, though many of those students will stay just one day. "A lot of people don't want to be away from their families that long," says Mileczarek, noting that DVR recently signed a \$280,000 contract to send up to 120 more clients to Northcentral.

Peterson says Wisconsin taxpayers aren't getting their money's worth. But Ole Brackey, supervisor of the Milwaukee District DVR office insists, "You can't measure the effectiveness of VIP programs. There are so many variables, so much is going on in

these people's lives." Yet Brackey insists that "out-of-state programs [like BLIND Inc.] have to prove they work."

In 1993, Peterson bet John Conway, director of DVR's Bureau of Sensory Disabilities, \$100 that BLIND Inc. provided better training than either MATC or NTC's adjustment-to-blindness programs. Using a study of the Wisconsin programs prepared by the DVR's own Office for the Blind and another conducted by the state of Minnesota, Peterson showed that 86 percent of Blind Inc.'s graduates said they could "do what sighted people do." None of the MATC's grads answered the same question affirmatively and only three of those from Northcentral did. Without that kind of confidence, Peterson argues, blind individuals can't succeed.

Still, Conway says, it's more important that 35 percent of Northcentral's VIP grads were employed; only 14 percent of those from BLIND Inc. (and MATC) were. Peterson argues that many of those jobs are in sheltered workshops. In contrast, graduates of the 10-year-old BLIND Inc. are more than twice as likely to pursue higher education than VIP graduates, she argues.

Peterson fired off a searing letter when Conway refused to see her point and welched on the bet. It said, "Give your past record for honesty, I have always believed you would renege . . . In the unlikely event that you have acquired a conscience . . . I shall give you my terms of payment. I do not accept food stamps. . . ." It might have worked in grade school, but this time, getting someone mad did not produce the desired result. Conway ignored Peterson's offer to have an impartial investigator analyze the reports on the three programs and dropped the matter.

Peterson says Northcentral's VIP doesn't get scrutinized because "the people advising the state on how it should allocate funds to help the blind are the main beneficiaries of that spending." Mileczarek is chairman of the Governor's Committee for People With Disabilities. Asked whether that is a conflict of interest, Mileczarek says, "Geez, I hope not. Everyone on the committee has something to do with disabilities."

As for proof his program works, Mileczarek says, "It's not a researchable thing . . . besides, Bonnie Peterson is like a John Birchener. Real conservative . . . she believes there's only one way to do things and that's with a real structured program. . . . The Federation believes some ridiculous things—like that you can have a totally blind mobility instructor."

Most rehabilitation programs work on a medical model, where goals are set and the program is designed to achieve them, he says. "But people don't want to be told you're going to be proficient in this when you leave, like it or not," says Mileczarek, who describes his program as "more like a smorgasbord."

Copies of Peterson's inflammatory letter circulated throughout the disabled community, bringing calls from more desperate individuals. One, Lisa Mann, had been legally blind since birth. She had spent her entire school life at WSVH, except for two years as an MPS high school student. Her MPS teacher (an opponent of the Braille Bill later) decided Mann didn't need Braille. Especially, he says, since the attractive black girl was "more interested in fashion and boys."

Mann could not meet MPS's graduation standards so she returned to WSVH and graduated in 1992. DVR then sent her to MATC's VIP program. "They told me I'd never be able to travel alone," says Mann. When MATC failed to provide the skills needed for

an independent life, Mann wasn't surprised, she says. "I met one girl there who was going through the program for the fifth time."

Next, DVR sent Mann to Northcentral's VIP, then to Western Wisconsin Technical College in La Crosse where, using large-type texts, she was slowed down so much, she says, she couldn't even earn Cs. When a DVR counselor told Mann about BLIND Inc., she visited the school. But when she said she wanted to go there, DVR sent her to Waukesha County Technical College instead.

Peterson enlisted Rep. Leon Young's (D-Milwaukee) office to help Mann get copies of her DVR records, and she accompanied Mann when she filed an appeal. "Before I met Bonnie Peterson," says Mann, "I was ready to give up hope." In November, 23-year-old Lisa Mann, who had never walked around her Sherman Park block alone because she didn't believe a blind person could do that, arrived at BLIND Inc. One week later, she took a bus across Wisconsin and found her way to the state Federation's annual meeting—and she did it alone.

Says DVR supervisor Brackey: "Lisa Mann's case is an anomaly." Says the DVR's top administrator, Judy Norman Nunnery: "If there was anything wrong in Lisa Mann's case, it was that we tried too hard to help her." The fact that DVR eventually sent Mann to BLIND, Inc. "has nothing to do with Bonnie Peterson" says Nunnery. "She uses the tactics of the civil rights and women's movements. . . . She says blind people were being treated like the slaves. As an Afro American, that offends me. . . . She doesn't have credibility with this office."

BLIND ALLEY

When DVR moved into new offices in November 1995, the sign on the door to the department's Office for the Blind read "Blind Alley." It might have been "the first case of truth in labeling" on DVR's part, says Peterson. DVR chief Nunnery laughs off the sign, saying, "It was just one of those silly things."

"How out of touch do they have to be not to know that would be offensive?" Peterson asks, repeating her frequent call for a separate office overseeing all state services for the blind. Federal law provides for as much, and many states, including Minnesota and Michigan, have them, but disrupting the status quo will be difficult.

Pat Brown, director of Badger Association of the Blind, the state contingent of the American Council for the Blind, says Peterson is "a role model for all people—not just the blind—because of her convictions and diligence. She doesn't let obstacles get in her way." But, he adds, "The Council doesn't approve of the Federal's methods—it believes you should work through the system."

But Milwaukee Mayor John Norquist praises Peterson. "Bureaucrats don't like her," he says, "but she has credibility, absolutely, with my office." Says Sen. Darling: "Bonnie Peterson appears to have a hard edge because anger gives her energy, but it is the same kind of energy that fueled the civil rights movement and the American Revolution. I wish there were more people like her."

When the phone rings now in Peterson's office at the South Side bungalow she shares with her husband and daughters, Candice, now 16, and 9-year-old Lindsay, the answering machine says, "This is the National Federation of the Blind of Wisconsin, where we're changing what it means to be blind." Already, Peterson has brought about a revolutionary change, making it impossible for people to say "a blind person don't do that."

Over and over again, she has proved otherwise.

(Reprinted with the permission of Milwaukee Magazine, February 1997.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILL TO BAN ATM SURCHARGE BY ATM OWNERS

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Electronic Fund Transfer Fees Act of 1997. This legislation addresses the growing practice of automated teller machine [ATM] operators assessing a surcharge on consumers who use their machines. Specifically, my bill prohibits an ATM operator from imposing an additional surcharge on customers for accessing their bank accounts through the operator's ATM.

On April 1, 1996, the national communication networks for ATM's—Cirrus and Plus—terminated their policy which prohibited ATM owners from surcharging consumers for using their machines. As a result of this policy change, customers may now be charged twice for accessing funds from the customer's own bank account if the customer uses an ATM which is not owned by the bank; the first fee is charged by the customer's bank for using a nonbank ATM and the second fee is charged by the ATM operator.

At the time of this policy change, experts estimated that within the first 18 months, 80 percent of ATM owners would impose a surcharge. In actuality only 6 months after the policy change 71 percent of ATM owners were assessing surcharges in North Carolina, 69 percent in Arizona, 60 percent in Virginia, and 48 percent in Maryland. While the nationwide figure has only reached 23 percent a recent study of banking practices in Texas indicates that the percentage will continue to grow; Texas' largest 10 banks have been allowed to surcharge since 1987 and all 10 banks now assess a surcharge for noncustomer ATM withdrawals.

In practice, banks enjoy tremendous savings by conducting consumer transactions through ATM's because ATM transactions are less costly to a bank than teller transactions. An ATM withdrawal on a nonowned machine may cost a large bank between \$.50 and \$.60. By contrast, a teller transaction with a customer costs the large bank between \$.90 and \$1.15. A study by the Consumer Finance Project indicates that in 1995, banks avoided 2.6 billion teller transactions because consumers used ATM's. Because the banks are actually saving money by using ATM's, consumer groups view it as extremely unfair to charge a consumer multiple fees for withdrawing his/her own funds through ATM's. Consumer groups such as U.S. Public Interest Research Group [USPIRG] and the Consumer Federation of America support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, it is now typical in many parts of the country for a consumer to be charged between \$1.50 and \$2.50 just to access money on the consumer's own accounts.

Whatever costs may be incurred by a bank when a customer uses a nonbank ATM, banks do manage to recover; on average, customers pay \$1.18 to their bank for the convenience of using ATM's which are not owned by the bank.

I am especially concerned because, unlike the banks that hold our accounts, the machine owner has no incentive to keep his/her fees reasonable because no relationship exists between the ATM owner and the customer. As such, the more remote the ATM machine, the less incentive for reasonable fees, and the more captive the bank customer.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when banks are making record profits and one-third of those profits—tens of billions of dollars a year—come from fees, it is outrageous that these same banks and other ATM owners are charging consumers even more to access the consumers' money. We must eliminate these additional surcharges and help protect the consumer from another needless expense.

ACKNOWLEDGING AFRICAN- AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, let me first thank our chairwoman of the CBC, Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS, the gentlewoman from California, for her leadership and tenacity in moving forthwith on critical issues of importance not only to African-Americans but to all Americans. And to our revered and preeminent leader, the gentleman of Ohio, Congressman LOUIS STOKES for his guidance in advising those of us who have come recently to this great House to do the people's business. My thanks to both my colleagues for allowing us these extended moments to reflect.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a proud African-American to acknowledge this month as African-American History Month and to recognize the vast contributions made by distinguished citizens of this Nation who are of African descent.

And as we hold our forbearers in high esteem for their courage, perseverance, morality and faith, we salute them for their relentless efforts in fighting to remove the legal and political disabilities that were imposed upon us. While I represent California's 37th Congressional District with pride, my birth State is Alabama, and I am reminded of the first African-American from Alabama, who was elected to the 42d Congress and who advocated even then the importance of education, Benjamin Sterling Turner. Education has been a cornerstone in the African-American community.

My father, Rev. Shelly Millender, Sr. knew the importance of education. He and my mother, Mrs. Everlina Dortch Millender, advocated a quality education and, gave us a value system that is part and parcel of the true spirit of African-American families. We recognize that a good education is the key to success and should open the doors to opportunity. I am further reminded of my father's teaching when he

would say: never subordinate to race bashing, respect yourself and others even though you have differences of opinion, but hold firm to your convictions. These are the teachings of numerous African-American families. And as I listened closely to the President's State of the Union Address as he spoke of education as a No. 1 priority; building strong families and communities; and humanitarian efforts in the assistance of the underprivileged through volunteerism, I stand tonight to lift up some of my constituents who are role models and great citizens that the President talked about. Their names were never in lights nor on billboards, but they are the unsung heroes of my community. They helped in the education of our children, they built strong families and engaging communities. And they taught us to have a strong value system. Let me share with you these outstanding African-American individuals.

THERESA LAVERNE HARRIS

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, the first days of the 105th Congress are clearly historic and momentous days as a new Congress begins to address the myriad of problems that face our Nation. At the same time, however, I would urge all of us to take a moment to reflect on some of the major events which have taken place over the past few months and perhaps more importantly on the millions of strengths that have made us, and this Nation, what we are today.

An example of one of these strengths is Theresa La Verne Harris, who passed away on November 21, 1996. Throughout her life, Theresa LaVerne touched all of us who had the pleasure of knowing her with her humor, her strength, and perhaps most importantly her dignity.

Born in Beaumont, TX, to Armand Rodney and Geraldine Phillips Richard, Theresa LaVerne was the oldest of three children. She spent her early youth in Louisiana and Mississippi until her family moved to California in 1943. She lived in California for the rest of her life, attending Los Angeles public schools and graduating from John H. Francis Polytechnic High School with honor, in 1947.

It was during her college year at UCLA, where she majored in English, that she met and married her husband of 45 years, Robert E. Harris. Together they had three sons, Michael, Vincent, and Trevor.

Following her graduation from UCLA in 1953, Theresa LaVerne began a long distinguished career with the Los Angeles Unified School District [LAUSD] as an educator and personnel administrator. Over the next 16 years, she excelled at her career; she raised three outstanding children; she was a loving and supportive wife; and she went on to earn a master of arts degree in personnel administration from Pepperdine University.

During this time Theresa LaVerne served the LAUSD in a variety of administrative capacities before taking a 2-year leave of absence to serve as assistant superintendent for

personnel services for the Compton Unified School District in 1983. She retired from LAUSD in 1989.

As both an educator and an administrator within the public school system, Theresa LaVerne worked hard to ensure that the students under her charge had the best education available to them. While she was deservedly proud of her personal and academic achievements, she was more interested in using her strengths and her assets to elicit the best from those around her.

In passing, Theresa LaVerne Harris is survived by her husband; Robert Emery Harris, her three sons and their wives: Michael and Anita of Fresno, Vincent and Celeste of Oakland, and Trevor and Kamela of Fresno; her father Armand Rodney Richard of Los Angeles; her brother, Dr. Rodney A. Richard of Pasadena; her sister, Geraldine Constance Speed of Carson; her three grandchildren, Ahmad, Mazisi and Jamila; a great granddaughter, Maya; two aunts, and an uncle; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and extended family.

She is also survived by the thousands of people whose lives she touched and invariably improved, some of whom knew her well and others who simply benefited from her efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I worked with Theresa LaVerne Harris and have had the privilege of knowing her and her family for decades. Theresa LaVerne was a devoted wife, a wonderful and nurturing mother, and a role model for all of us who had the opportunity to know her. She will be sorely missed.

As I said earlier, however, it is up to us to remember people like Theresa LaVerne and to build on their strengths and their legacies. It is people like her who should be our role models.

CAROLYN ANN RICHARDSON
CHENEY

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, in these early days of the 105th Congress, we face many of the same challenges of governance and public policy development our predecessors had to address as we confront the problems and opportunities before our great nation. As we look forward, we should pause to reflect on the contributions, both large and small, our citizenry, collectively and individually, have made to the development of our great nation.

In doing so, we cannot help but take notice of Carolyn Ann Richardson Cheney, who passed away on December 13, 1996. Carolyn's devotion to family and community service, as well as her generosity, spirituality and faith, served as an inspiration to all who knew her.

Born in Dallas, TX, to Oda Lee Blair and Howard Richardson, she spent her early youth in El Paso, TX, before moving to Tulare, CA. After graduating from Tulare Union High School, she obtained credentials as a dental assistant and began working in Los Angeles.

She moved to Compton, CA, where her love of learning, thirst for knowledge and pursuit of higher education continued at Compton Community College. She earned her associate of arts degree and, upon graduation, matriculated to California State University Dominguez Hills. As an honor student, she earned a bachelor's degree in public administration. In 1977, she gained admission to the University of Southern California's master's program in public policy and judicial science. Until health challenges forced her to postpone her graduation, she maintained a 4.0 grade point average as a personal expression of her high standards and expectations for those whom she nurtured and set an example.

Carolyn's ambition, strength, and motivation found expression in her entrepreneurial and managerial talents. For 15 years, she worked at Sears and Roebuck, during which time she was promoted from sales clerk to floor manager for the home furnishings and interiors department. In 1980, she opened her own insurance agency under the auspices of Allstate Insurance Co., where her firm became one of the top agencies in southern California. Despite her busy schedule, Carolyn found time to serve others through her church and community service activities. Throughout her life, Carolyn's leadership and organizational skills found expression in a wide variety of organizations. She served as president of the Compton Rotary Club; director of evangelism and coordinator of the Angel Tree Program at Tower of Faith Evangelistic Church in Compton; and as a teacher at Union Rescue Mission in Los Angeles. She was a member of the Torrance/Lomita Rotary Club; served on the advisory board for the California Women's Commission on Alcohol and Drug Dependencies/Black Women's Media Project as well as the board of trustees of Light of the World Community Church. She volunteered in the Los Angeles Probation Department Chaplain's Office.

Carolyn was named a Paul Harris Fellow by Rotary International in appreciation of her efforts and assistance in the furtherance of better understanding and friendly relations among peoples of the world.

Carolyn was a loving and devoted mother of four children: Vernon, Giselle, Darrell, and Marcus. Through words and deeds, she instilled in them the principals of honesty, integrity, hard work, perseverance, and self sacrifice. These are the values that helped to make our Nation great and our people strong. The attributes and her example are testimonials to the enduring strength of motherhood.

Carolyn Ann Richardson Cheney is survived by her sons, Pastor Vernon Lee Ward of Hawthorne, CA; Darrell Delaune Cheney of Dominguez Hills, CA; Marcus Sebastian Mason of Washington, DC; one daughter, Giselle Faune Cheney of Hawthorne, CA; seven grandchildren, including Shelly Fion, Vernisha Leshawn, Fallon Veron, Deijanae Zaire, Delaune Marcus, Jazmin Ayana, and Taelor Chanel; daughters-in-law, Debra Ann Ward and Dionne Patric Cheney; daughter-in-law, Chanel Nicole Troy of Los Angeles, CA; aunts, Mattie Bernice Owens and Elizabeth Anthony and a host of extended family and friends. She is also survived by a loving stepfather, Coyol James Marlin.

Mr. Speaker, Carolyn Ann Richardson Cheney will be sorely missed by all who looked to

her for nurturing, leadership and strength. Her example should inspire us all to make the most out of our lives and opportunities.

TRIBUTE TO PRISCILLA LYON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Priscilla Lyon is a diligent worker on behalf of the First Baptist Church of Brownsville, where she organized the first Vacation Bible School. She functioned as director of that position for 5 years. Additionally, she has taught the youth Sunday School, supervised the youth choir, and provided services to the youth missionaries.

Presently, she serves as the chairperson of the Women's Ministry, is the director of the Feeding Ministry, serves as the director of the Shekina & Praise Dancers, and is the instructor of the Senior Missionary Circle. Priscilla Lyon also finds time to perform liaison work for the Women's Fellowship.

Born in South Hampton County VA, she is the third of six children. Her hobbies are sewing, crocheting, drafting, millinery, and decorating. Respected and adored by her fellow church members, she was honored at the Henry House in September 1996. She is a mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. It is my privilege to highlight her achievements and contributions.

CHAMPIONS OF THE PRAIRIE

HON. JOHN THUNE

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, lately, football fans across the Nation are talking about the Green Bay Packers. Today, I'd like to inform my colleagues about an outstanding championship team that hasn't received much national attention. They are the NAIA Division II National Football Champions—The University of Sioux Falls Cougars. With their victory in the championship playoff game in December, the Cougars became the first South Dakota college team to win a national football title.

This group of young men had a remarkable season—an exclamation point to their emergence as a football powerhouse. Many of the players spent the last 4 years playing together. While each of these seasons has been significant, the Cougars 2-8 record in 1993, didn't even foreshadow the greatness just around the corner. Head Coach Bob Young was concerned he'd lose many of his talented freshmen. Instead of dwelling on past disappointments, the young players and their coach pulled together and focused on a winning future. They have proven that commitment, loyalty, and hard work can and do pay off. In the three seasons since that disappointing 1993 season, the Cougars compiled and impressive 32-4 record, made three straight playoff appearances, and won the

1996 National Championship. For the last 2 years, the South Dakota Sports Writers Association have selected the Cougar Football Team as the Men's College Team of the Year.

The sportscaster who coined the expression "this is the one for the record books" had no idea how fitting it would be for the 1996 Cougars. Nearly half of the school's individual records were set by that team.

Quarterback Kurtiss Riggs completed the regular season without throwing an interception. He set a national collegiate record 290 pass attempts without an interception. He also holds the NAIA division record for most touchdowns in a season with 55. Yet, when he was asked about his personal records, Kurtiss said he'd give them all up for the national championship. Fortunately, he didn't have to make that sacrifice.

Senior wide receiver Kalen DeBoer finished the year with 17 touchdowns, 99 receptions, and 1,372 yards, including 182 in one game. Sophomore running back David Ruter had 19 touchdowns and 1,726 yards rushing, including 315 in one game. When you have that kind of offensive trio achieving those kind of stats, it means you have an equally impressive offensive line doing the job up front. The Cougar defense led by Phil Porter, Larry Wilson, Chuck Morrell, Travis Dumke, and Ray Smith were ranked in the top 10 nationally both in scoring and rushing defense.

As a team, the undefeated Cougars recorded the 19th best season scoring total in collegiate history with 636 points. They achieved this record by averaging 45 points per game and defeated their opponents by an average of 30 points. These figures are even more impressive considering one game was played in a blizzard and Coach Young's practice of benching the first string players once the game was in hand. It wasn't unusual for starters to play only half the game, giving younger players valuable game experience. With such an overwhelming offense, some may have been tempted to run up the score. But Coach Young's success is grounded in good sportsmanship and an eye toward the future. The Cougars also marched to the record books without much home cooking. They had the home field advantage for only two games this season.

When the Cougars took the field for the Championship game in Tennessee on December 21, they faced Western Washington, a team with a school enrollment 10 times that of University of Sioux Falls. It was a modern-day version of David and Goliath. The outcome was the same as the Biblical tale—Sioux Falls slew Western Washington with a decisive 47-to-25 victory.

The University of Sioux Falls never was ranked No. 1, but the Cougars won their championship on the field, not in the polls. And for his leadership, Coach Bob Young was named the NAIA Division II Football National Coach of the Year.

I also want to pay tribute to the character of the players and the entire coaching staff, which was shown at the end of each game when the entire team would huddle on the field and give thanks to God for their success. This weekly demonstration of faith is a stark and moving contrast to the typical bravado we see sometimes during professional games.

Faith, loyalty, commitment, and teamwork. In a day when many look to sports for heroes, the 1996 University of Sioux Falls Cougar football team have earned two titles: local heroes and national champions. They are champions of the prairie. On behalf of the city of Sioux Falls and the State of South Dakota, I am pleased to say congratulations, Cougars. We're proud of you.

ADOPT A FARM FAMILY

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an organization that is working hard to bring about economic and spiritual renewal in rural America. Headquartered in Sikeston, MO in my congressional district, the Adopt a Farm Family of America organization has been a tremendous force for good in southern Missouri and throughout the country. The volunteers and coordinators of Adopt a Farm Family are sponsoring a rural restoration conference in Sikeston next week, continuing their tradition of spiritual outreach and support for farm families.

America's farmers and ranchers are the best in the world, but they face an increasingly complex set of challenges. Uncertain markets, changing environmental conditions, and new government policies all contribute to the challenge of operating a farm in rural America. The job calls for long hours, old-fashioned values, and a strong faith in God. Adopt a Farm Family has stood by our Nation's farmers since its inception in 1988. Today, it continues to provide the kind of assistance and expertise that makes a real difference in the lives of thousands of Americans.

At next week's rural restoration conference, from Sunday February 16 to Tuesday February 18, Adopt a Farm Family will invite farmers to come together as a group to discuss methods of improving farm life. The entire Sikeston community, many of whom are providing financial and other support to the conference, is participating in a concerted effort to make the event educational and rewarding. Seminars and speakers will address a broad variety of topics, including farm finances, soil nutrition, marketing techniques, and family issues. I should also note that I have the high honor of speaking at the conference, and I am looking forward to contributing to the special purpose of the occasion.

Mr. Speaker, Adopt a Farm Family of America is one of the best examples in America of a group of people determined to help, and who then make it happen. You can see it in founder and current director of ministry, Mrs. Mary W. Myers, in her husband and current President Peter, and in the many folks who play a part in Adopt a Farm Family programs—the belief in the idea that through hard work and faith in God, good things are possible. I commend the people who are part of the Adopt a Farm Family of America organization, and express the hope that we can help them fulfill their mission of fighting to keep farm and ranch families on the land.

RECOGNITION OF MAYOR KIERAN O'HANLON

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the accomplishments of Kieran O'Hanlon, the mayor of Limerick City, Ireland. The mayor has been invited to Queens for the celebration of St. Patrick's Day and to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the signing of the Charter of Limerick City, thereby making it the oldest chartered city in Europe.

As the founding member of the Progressive Democrats in Ireland, Mayor O'Hanlon has served as an inspiration to the members of his party as well as to the rest of the world. Having only entered the formal political arena in 1991, Mr. O'Hanlon has already made an indelible mark on politics in Ireland.

The anniversary of Limerick should remind us of the importance of maintaining the integrity of our own communities. Mr. Speaker, I hope all of my colleagues will join me in wishing Mayor O'Hanlon all the luck in the future. When we look to the future we look for the charisma and political perseverance which is characteristic of Mr. O'Hanlon's leadership.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 1997 WESTINGHOUSE SCIENCE TALENT FINALISTS

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Long Cai, Daniel James Durand, Jonathan William Plauze, and Kathryn Joanna Potenza, all of Long Island, NY. Competing against the most talented young scientific minds that America has to offer, these outstanding high school scholars from Eastern Long Island have all been recognized as Finalists in the 1997 Westinghouse Science Talent Search.

With the guidance of their teachers, the love and support of their parents and each with their own talent and work ethic, these four students have successfully conducted breakthrough scientific experiments while just in high school. Those experiments so impressed the judges at the Westinghouse Science Talent Search that they named Long, Daniel, Jonathan, and Kathryn one of 40 finalists, among 1,652 entrants nationwide.

Three of these students—Long Cai, Jonathan Williams Plauze, and Kathryn Joanna Potenza—attend Ward Melville High School in Setauket, Long Island, where the demanding and competitive WestPrep research program produces Westinghouse science scholars on a yearly basis. Daniel James Durand attends Shoreham-Wading River High School, just a few miles east of Setauket along Long Island's North Shore.

For his Westinghouse project in biotechnology, Daniel Durand of Shoreham, Long Island developed what could be a more effective and cost-efficient method for extracting radioactive uranium from contaminated soil. A 4-

year varsity wrestler and the vice president of the Physical Fitness Club at Shoreham-Wading River, Daniel plans to study biomedical engineering at Rice University.

Long Cai, of East Setauket, deduced that there are mathematical relationships that describe the effects of rotating Fresnel Zone Plates, magnifying glass lenses, on x-ray focusing, which will help scientists understand the effects of misaligned plates. Born in China, 16-year-old Long mastered the English in just the ninth-grade. He plans to study biomedical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Jonathan Plau, of Stony Brook, collected materials and services worth more than \$125,000 to create his environmental studies project. Landfilling is no longer a permissible waste disposal method on Long Island, so waste-to-energy incineration has become more prominent. Jonathan devised an effective method for replacing sand and gravel with incinerator ash in the manufacture of asphalt, which he calls ASHphalt. Jonathan hopes to attend Massachusetts Institute of Technology, to study chemical engineering.

Kathryn Potenza, of Setauket, examined the effects of parents' marriages and mothers' socialization practices on the romantic relationships of adolescents for her Westinghouse project in psychology. Kathryn collected data from 57 mother-adolescent pairs, then completed her research at the nearby State University of New York at Stony Brook. She hopes to pursue studies in psychology at the University of Virginia.

During the week of March 5, all of the Westinghouse finalists will visit Washington, DC, where they will compete for \$205,000 in scholarships. I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to extend their congratulations to all of the 1997 Westinghouse Science Talent Search finalists.

TRIBUTE TO GWENDOLYN BROOKS

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and reverence that I offer this tribute to a fellow Chicagoan, Poetess Gwendolyn Brooks.

Her writings have painted the picture of African-American people. A picture that is often filled with deep emotion, resounding character, and gallant triumphs. The depth of her talent has allowed her writings to reveal the character and experiences of America as a whole.

The quality and importance of her poetry to this Nation is evidenced by the fact that in 1950 she became the first African-American to win the Pulitzer Prize for poetry. As further evidence of her contribution to American letters she has been awarded two Guggenheim Fellowships, has served as a poetry consultant to the Library of Congress, and currently serves as State of Illinois poet laureate.

My words of praise cannot convey the depth of my gratitude for her contribution to her community and her Nation. The writings of Gwendolyn Brooks have the quality of a hand that

rocks a baby's cradle. For the hand that soothes a baby by rocking it to and fro is also the same hand that disciplines the child—both done with love. Her style of writing welcomes and embraces. It is this characteristic of her work that allows her to address difficult if not disturbing issues we have addressed as individuals, as a people, and a nation without being haughty or magnanimous.

Gwendolyn Brooks is an American treasure. A treasure whose brilliance will never fade. It is with deep affection that I offer this tribute.

WORLD NEEDS FAMILY PLANNING FUNDS

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member highly commends to his colleagues the following editorial regarding funds for international family planning which appeared in the Omaha World Herald on February 5, 1997.

WORLD NEEDS FAMILY-PLANNING FUNDS

The United States government's commitment to population control and support for family-planning services around the world is headed for another test in Congress. Anti-abortion forces have slowed and reduced the U.S. role in the past. We hope they don't do so again.

A vote is approaching on whether to release \$385 million to provide family-planning services to women in the world's poorest countries. The funds were allocated last year but tied up by anti-abortion congressmen who demanded stronger restrictions on using the money to promote abortion.

U.S. funding for family-planning programs around the world hit a record \$547 million in 1995 but was slashed by 35 percent last year. Ironically, the cut demanded by anti-abortion leaders, which denied access to modern contraceptives to seven million couples, resulted in an estimated 1.6 million more abortions, the Alan Guttmacher Institute has said. The U.S. Agency for International Development, which handles the family-planning programs, said the funding delays have "resulted in programmatic disruption, inefficiencies" and an estimated \$1 million in extra administrative costs.

President Clinton has submitted a report to Congress summarizing the negative impact the lack of funding is having. The report notes the unintended consequences of more abortions and more infant and maternal mortality Congress must act on that report sometime this month, either reaffirming its decision to delay the money or allowing it to be paid out.

Since 1973, Congress has forbidden the use of U.S. tax dollars for abortions or abortion-related services overseas. Money sent to the United Nations for family planning and contraceptive services is clearly and unequivocally segregated from any abortion-related expenditures.

But anti-abortion forces have demanded that Clinton return to what is known as the Mexico City policy of the Reagan and Bush administrations. That policy barred funding for any organization that performs or promotes abortion as a means of family planning, even though U.S. money would not be used for those activities. Clinton canceled the policy when he took office.

Werner Fornos, president of the Population Institute, has suggested that the wider availability of family-planning services in developing nations could actually reduce abortions, which now number 32 million a year.

Further delays in family-planning funding would result in even more unintended pregnancies and more abortions. Anti-abortion forces will have caused the very thing they say they abhor most if they continue to delay the release of family-planning money.

Population control is vital. Fast population growth underpins most of the worst problems facing the world—pollution, erosion and soil depletion, loss of the rain forests and a growing shortage of fresh water for domestic and agricultural use. Modern, easily available family-planning services can make a big difference. Congress ought to release the funds needed to keep the international programs going.

INDEPENDENT FACT FINDERS NEEDED TO STRENGTHEN HOUSE ETHICS PROCESS

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to join my distinguished colleague, Representative LEE HAMILTON, in introducing House Resolution 61. This resolution would for the first time give private citizens a meaningful role in the House's ethics process. Our fundamental goals are to further enhance the openness of the House to make this institution more responsive to the public, and to bolster citizen confidence in Congress.

LEE HAMILTON and I developed this proposal during our service as House co-chairmen of the 1993 Joint Committee on the Organization of Congress. Our resolution is based on the testimony of many Members and outside experts about the strengths and weaknesses of the current ethics process.

Let me first make a comment about LEE HAMILTON's recent announcement that this will be his last term in Congress. LEE's retirement will be a big loss to this institution and the American people. He has been a model legislator for us all, and I wish him all the best in whatever activity he chooses to pursue when he leaves the House. In the meantime, I am delighted to join with LEE once again in our mutual interest to improve the work and reputation of the legislative branch.

Specifically, House Resolution 61 would make several important changes in the House ethics process. First, it would authorize the Speaker and minority leader to appoint jointly 20 independent fact finders at the beginning of each Congress. These private citizens could then be called upon to conduct ethics investigations for the Standards of Official Conduct Committee. The definition of private citizens includes, among others, former Members, staff aides, and officers of Congress, but not lobbyists.

Second House Resolution 61 grants discretionary authority to the Ethics Committee to decide, on a case-by-case basis, when to request that private citizens be used to conduct investigations involving allegations of ethical

misconduct. Our resolution provides that an even number of fact finders—four or six—shall be appointed jointly from the standby pool by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Standards Committee. Daily pay, travel, and per diem costs are provided the fact finders when they are engaged in ethics investigative work. Staff aides of the Standards Committee are authorized to assist the fact finders in carrying out their responsibilities.

Third, the job of the fact finders is to conduct a preliminary review of the ethical complaint. They are to make the detailed inquiries, accumulate relevant background materials, gather pertinent evidence, and so on—all activities that usually consume enormous amounts of time. A benefit that inheres in the Hamilton-Dreier approach to ethics reform is that it will alleviate time burdens on members who will not have to do this pick and shovel investigative work. Another benefit is to increase public confidence that allegations of ethical misconduct are being fully and independently explored.

Fourth, after the preliminary review of the ethics complaint has been completed, the private citizens would report their finds and recommendations to the full Ethics Committee. If the fact finders determine that their findings justify further formal action by the Ethics Committee, they may, by majority vote, transmit a statement of alleged violations to the ethics panel.

Finally, in the event that a statement of alleged violations is sent to the Ethics Committee, that panel will then act as an adjudicatory subcommittee as provided in the Committee's rules. The full Ethics Committee will then conduct its own review of the information transmitted to it by the fact finders, including, if required, the convening of public hearings.

In our judgment, House Resolution 61 provides an innovative and flexible approach to revamping the House's ethics process. On those high profile and complex cases, the Ethics Committee can turn to a pool of private citizens to conduct the investigations. For ethics complaints that appear minor, the committee can continue to appoint its own subcommittee to conduct the preliminary inquiry.

Everyone who serves in Congress understands that public trust in the legislative branch is not especially high. To be sure, many factors have contributed to this development, such as heightened cynicism in the body politic, but public misgivings about how Congress handles ethical charges against its own Members also contribute to the lack of citizen confidence. This institution must devote more time and attention to congressional ethics, which is why I strongly endorse the recent establishment of a bipartisan House ethics task force to revise and improve our ethics process. This initiative by our Republican and Democratic leaders deserves everyone's support and encouragement.

Members and citizens alike have a large stake in an improved ethics process. The strength of representative government rests fundamentally on public confidence in the integrity of our proceedings. In our view, there is an inherent conflict-of-interest when only members are involved in evaluating ethics complaints against their peers. House Resolution 61 will address this issue by allowing pri-

vate citizens to assist in ethics investigations on a case-by-case basis. Adoption of our resolution will further demonstrate that the House and its Members care deeply about improving and strengthening their ethical processes and responsibilities.

FOR THE RELIEF OF FRANK NOTREM

HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY II

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the assistance of all my colleagues in aiding a constituent in my district, Mr. Frank Notrem.

Mr. Notrem is now 82 years old. Before World War II he was in the National Guard; when the war broke out he went to Europe to fight. In all, he served in the Army for 40 years.

In civilian life he has dedicated his life to his community, serving as a member of the Chelsea Fire Department for 32 years.

Seventeen years ago, Mr. Notrem was injured on the job, breaking both his legs. He was forced to retire due to those injuries.

At that time, Mr. Notrem's wife, concerned about the hospital bills that would soon come due, hid 10 of Mr. Notrem's veteran's checks, totaling \$8,242.20. She hid them so well that she forgot where they were. It was only recently that they were discovered after Mrs. Notrem passed away and her children were cleaning up the house.

Though the money is owed, the checks are no longer valid. Nonetheless, I believe this Nation owes Mr. Notrem a debt of gratitude for his service. Therefore, I have introduced legislation requiring the Treasury Department to pay Mr. Notrem the \$8,242.20 he is owed.

Please join me in meeting our obligations to Mr. Notrem.

SAN DIEGO HOSPICE: 20 YEARS OF EXEMPLARY SERVICE

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to pay tribute to San Diego Hospice. In 1977, local citizens, clergy members, and medical professionals, motivated by a shared concern for the plight of terminally ill patients, joined together to create the San Diego Hospice.

As one of the first hospice programs in the country, San Diego Hospice set the standard by which we provide care for the terminally ill and their families. Now caring for more than 1,600 people a year, San Diego Hospice is not only an integral part of our regional health care system, it is an innovator, constantly working to better its outreach and care.

San Diego Hospice has effectively employed San Diego's large medical community to foster education, and it was the first hospice

to bring palliative medicine into the curriculum of a medical school—the University of California, San Diego, School of Medicine.

San Diego Hospice continues to develop cutting edge programs that serve as an example to other hospices. These include the Acute Care Center, the Center for Palliative Studies, and exceptional programs in pediatrics and bereavement support.

Mr. Speaker, each and every day the San Diego Hospice brightens the lives of terminally ill patients and their loved ones. San Diego has been blessed by the care provided by the San Diego Hospice, and I am sure that it will continue to serve as an excellent model of people helping people and working together for the betterment of their shared community.

SALUTING BEVERLY BRITTON FRASER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the many years of invaluable community service of Beverly Britton Fraser, Esq. Ms. Britton Fraser, an attorney, has committed her life to winning justice for the poor. Despite numerous opportunities offered by corporate law firms and government agencies, Ms. Britton Fraser, a University of Buffalo School of Law graduate, has zealously worked as a trial attorney for the Legal Aid Society.

This native Brooklynite was also a "Partner in Education." As such, she visited inner-city schools and talked with students of all ages about her profession, substance abuse avoidance, and attaining personal goals through education. As a person who has always been influenced by an intense desire to give back to her community, Ms. Britton Fraser has wholeheartedly pursued her goals.

In 1992, in the course of her career as a lawyer, Ms. Britton Fraser met and married Errol Fraser, a certified public accountant. The couple currently resides in Brooklyn where she is a court attorney for Judge Bernard Fuchs of the New York City Civil Court. She continues to pursue the belief that "justice is being served for all," but particularly for those who are poor and downtrodden in our community.

For these reasons, it gives me great pleasure to Salute Ms. Beverly Britton Fraser, a community hero. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Ms. Britton Fraser.

LET THE CHILDREN PRAY

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, prayer in schools has moved to the front burner in American politics, and for good reason. Today, in many communities across the country, children are forbidden to pray in schools. Not just forbidden to participate in organized prayer,

which most constitutional scholars believe would violate the U.S. Constitution, but forbidden to pray voluntarily, which is well within every child's constitutional rights.

For this reason, I have introduced a resolution in the House of Representatives that would amend the Constitution to make it perfectly clear that voluntary school prayer is a fundamental right that all school children enjoy. The amendment, which is just 33 words, simply states:

Nothing in this Constitution shall prohibit the inclusion of voluntary prayer in any public school program or activity. Neither the United States nor any State shall prescribe the content of any such prayer.

It is a sad commentary on the state of American jurisprudence that such an amendment is necessary. It should be obvious to all that the Government has no business, and no right, to prohibit voluntary prayer by anyone. Nevertheless, liberal activists have succeeded in propagating the idea that any school prayer violates the separation of church and state.

Nothing could be further from the truth. If anything, my amendment would restore a proper understanding of the church-state separation issue. School children would be permitted to pray voluntarily, but no Government entity could determine the content of such prayer—which is as it should be.

There are those in America who would like to see not only prayer, but all other religious expression banished from public life altogether. They will not succeed. Our Nation was founded on Judeo-Christian principles and values that have just as much right to expression in the public arena as the culture relativism so fashionable today.

It is amazing that in a time when civility seems to be breaking down all around us that school prayer could be regarded as a threat. On the contrary, it is the removal of moral influences from public life that has contributed to our Nation's social ills. By introducing a constitutional amendment to ensure the rights of school children to voluntary pray in school, I hope I have made a small contribution toward a restoration of the legitimate place of religion in society.

BILL TO PROVIDE FOR PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS FOR CERTAIN PERSIAN GULF EVACUEES

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to provide for the permanent resident status for certain Persian Gulf War Evacuees.

During the Persian Gulf War, the United States decided to evacuate some 200 families, approximately 2,000 individuals, the majority of whom are stateless Palestinians, who had been living in Kuwait. The United States Government evacuated these families to the United States after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait but before the United States military intervention in that conflict, because the families all

had American children and some had harbored American citizens during Iraq's occupation.

The families initially were given temporary protected status, and before President Bush left office he approved deferred enforced departure [DED] for the families. This status was continued each year thereafter by President Clinton. However, on December 31, 1996, the White House did not continue the DED status. Once in the United States, these families began making a life, including having additional children. The majority of the families have received permanent residency status. However, approximately 47 families have not received permanent residency status and have now suddenly found themselves faced with deportation. Kuwait will not accept them back into the country. Most of the parents hold Jordanian passports, but are not necessarily Jordanian citizens. Even if Jordan could accept them, Jordan is already burdened with tens of thousands of Palestinians who left Kuwait during the War. In addition, in Jordan the families will have no economic assistance, no jobs in an economy that is already burdened with unemployed people, and no health care for their children. This will all work to create severe hardship on the children who are American citizens and essentially will sentence them to a life of impoverishment.

These families are principally composed of professionals and technical people who are dependent upon no one for their support in the United States except by their own labor. They have maintained an excellent record of citizens training. They are a definite asset to this country.

Mr. Speaker, going through with the deportation would be an act of great injustice for a small group of people who did not ask to be evacuated here in the first place. But now that they are here, fairness would require that they be permitted to adjust their status so that they may continue to raise their American citizen children in this society.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this legislation to allow this small group to adjust their status to permanent residents [immigrants]. Many of the families placed themselves at grave risk by harboring American citizens during Iraq's occupation of Kuwait—keeping them safe until they could leave or until American intervention could drive the Iraqi's out.

Deporting these few [47] families with American-born children is not the way for a grateful Nation to show its thanks. Enacting this bill, granting them permanent immigrant status, is

CALIFORNIA CIVIL RIGHTS INITIATIVE

HON. NEWT GINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to submit into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the remarks of five citizens given last night in a tribute to Ward Connerly, the chairman of the recent campaign for the California Civil Rights Initiative. These five people shared with us

their own personal experiences dealing with racial preferences. I would like to recognize them for their courage in speaking out on such a divisive issue.

REMARKS BY JANICE CAMARENA

Good evening ladies and gentlemen. My name is Janice Camarena, and I am glad to be here to honor Ward Connerly.

The first time I called Ward's office, I wanted to find out how I could get involved in proposition 209, and I was very nervous. Here I was, talking to a man who was not only a University of California regent, but also the chairman of an initiative that would have a great effect on the future of my children. Later, after I met Ward for the first time, I just had to hug him—he probably thought I was crazy, but that was okay with me * * *

Over the last year and a half, Ward has gone from being someone I was nervous about talking with, to being a great speaker whom I respect, to being my mentor, my friend and a hero.

I met Ward at a very difficult time in my life. I was in the middle of a lawsuit I had filed against the State of California, challenging the racially segregated programs in our community college system. I had been kicked out of an English 101 class after meeting every requirement except one—my skin was the wrong color.

On the first day of class, the teacher told me and one other white female student that there was a problem, that there were a couple of students who did not belong, that the class was for African-American students, and that we would have to leave. I later learned that this class was part of something called the "Black Bridge Program" designed for black students only.

What happened at school affected not only me, but my two daughters as well. My first daughter was born when I was sixteen and her father is white. The following year, I married a Mexican man; he died two weeks after my second daughter was born. From the beginning, I taught my daughters that most people are basically good, that most people will judge them by who they are as individuals, and not by their color.

But when I walked into that federally-funded English class and was ordered to walk out of it, I realized that I had misled my children. I realized that my daughters would not be treated equally—not by their government, their public education system, their teachers or their counselors. And I wondered what kind of future this country held for my multi-racial children.

My daughters had asked me if discrimination is wrong, and I had always said yes, it is always wrong. After I was kicked out of class because of my color, my daughters had new questions—if discrimination is wrong, they asked, how come your school doesn't know that? If discrimination is wrong, they asked, how come our government doesn't know that? I told my daughters that I did not have the answers, but that I would find out.

The following semester, I enrolled in a non-segregated English class and decided to write my research paper on segregated programs. I found that we had two different segregated programs in our community colleges—the "Black Bridge Program" I mentioned before, and the "Puentes Program" for Mexican-Americans. These programs were closed to everyone except black or Mexican-American students. I thought: About nine years from now, both of my daughters could be going to this same school, but one will be

eligible for a special program and one will not—and only because my daughters have different colors.

I filed my lawsuit, and later I came to meet Ward Connerly and work on the CCRI campaign. On November 6, 1996 I got to tell my children what I had been longing to tell them for two and one-half years. I got to tell them that big people make mistakes, and that race-based policies were a really bad mistake on our government's part *** but because as Americans we had stood and fought together, I told them, now their government, their public education system, their teachers and counselors had to treat them as they were created, *** equally.

I owe a big part of that to Ward. If it were not for his courage and love for the human race as a whole, I would not have been able to tell my children that.

In the very short time I have known him, I have learned many things from Ward Connerly. I have learned the meaning of dignity and integrity. I have learned the value of freedom and equality. And I have learned never to take life, liberty and justice for granted. Most importantly, I have learned about the kind of person I would like to be someday.

To a man who has chosen to take up the fight and bear the burden for the sake of our children, for the sake of my children, I say: You have touched our lives and our hearts in a tremendous way. And you will always, always be a hero to me.

REMARKS BY DAVID ROGERS

Ward Connerly often speaks with reverence about early civil rights heroes, including Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King, Jr., and it is right that he does so. Indeed, it is Mr. Connerly's frequent invocation of Rosa Parks that most captures my imagination, because she has long been a particular hero of mine.

Like Mrs. Parks, my friend Cheryl Hopwood, I and others were forced to sit in the back of the bus, and forced to sit there by deliberate, malicious and unconstitutional state action. The bus in question was the admissions process at the University of Texas at Austin Law School, and it was on this bus that I—not unlike many others here and all around the country—became a victim of affirmative action in the virulent form of racism.

In her struggle to integrate the buses of Montgomery, Mrs. Parks had the help of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. To its eternal discredit, the NAACP did not see fit to help me. Fortunately I had another, equally tenacious ally. His name is Steve Smith, and he is the determined, idealistic and extraordinarily competent young lawyer who took the place of the NAACP for me and my co-plaintiffs. Steve uncovered the secret machinations at the University of Texas that constituted what I have come to call affirmative racism.

Unlike the old segregationism, affirmative racism—the selective inclusion or exclusion of people on the basis of assigned race or ethnic group membership—operates behind a veil of secrecy, halftruths and even lies. In the law school admissions case, we plaintiffs were able to expose the race preferences of the Texas system, although we were not able to achieve appropriate monetary redress—or admission to the UT Law School according to individual qualifications based on merit rather than accidents of birth. Sadly, following a ruling in our favor in the fifth circuit, the university's appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court resulted in a vague statement

of "no genuine controversy." Meanwhile, the UT Law School replaced its affirmatively racist admissions process with one that has no objective standards whatsoever. So affirmative racism can still proceed under the cloak of vagueness.

Our exposure-without-victory experience demonstrates why initiatives like proposition 209—the California civil rights initiative—are so important to this nation's future. While all of us stand upon the shoulders of the giants who dismantled America's original racism, and are proud to do so, not a few invoke the legacy of Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King to justify a perfidious agenda of deliberate race discrimination. Ward Connerly stands with the giants, and against the corrupt—and we should all stand with him against the corrupt, until even the University of Texas is colorblind.

REMARKS BY VALERY PECH

Good evening, I am glad to be with you.

In August 1989, the small family business that my husband Randy and I started lost yet another Federal highway subcontract on which we had submitted the lowest bid. We didn't like it, and we fought the decision. Six years later, in June 1995, the Supreme Court ruled against the quota-based decision-making used against us.

We celebrated our victory in *Adarand vs. Peña*, not least by recalling that above the entrance to the Air Force Academy near our home in Colorado Springs appear the words, "Bring me men to match my mountains." Always blessed, America has been blessed most of all because it has always had men to match her mountains—men like William Pendley at Mountain States Legal Foundation, who argued our case, and men like Ward Connerly, who matches every peak of the majestic Rockies.

Randy and I are so thankful for what Ward Connerly has done—not just because he had the courage to take the discrimination issue to the people of California, but because of the manner in which he did it. I don't know what is the most impressive: The success at the ballot box, the victory over the politics of hatred and division, or Ward Connerly's mastery of the language in explaining it all. I don't know, so you take your pick. I will say only that the Bible teaches that if we speak without love we are only "a clanging cymbal." Ward Connerly's words were always of love, even in an often hateful, vicious campaign.

Randy and I know what it is like to conduct such a campaign. During our long fight, the most insulting thing was the portrayal of Randy as a "angry white man"—and not just because Randy is the most gracious, even-tempered and genuinely nice guy I ever met, although that's why I married him! The "angry white male" slogan was insulting because this battle was not Randy's alone. It never was and isn't now. It is our battle, all of us.

When we started our company in 1976, we had more women than men owners, all family except one close friend. We were told many times that we should be certified as a "WBE", a women-business-enterprise, and so qualify for our piece of the quota pie. We refused to do that because we believe quotas are wrong.

We didn't and don't want to be judged by the sex or race of the owners or operators of our company. We did and do want to be judged on the basis of the quality and timeliness of our work, and the reasonableness of its cost. A good highway guardrail is a good highway guardrail, regardless of the race or sex of its builder—that's what we believe.

The battle we fought was Randy's and my battle for yet another reason. Men, being men, bear the injuries and insults of the business world stoically. Women are not so similarly inclined. We women have seen the pain suffered when our sons and husbands are judged not by who they are and what they can do, but instead by their race—and we don't like it one bit.

If anyone is angry, it is we mothers and wives. As Ward Connerly has explained, the so-called political equation of people-of-color-plus-white-women, versus white-men, just doesn't add up.

In my heart I believe that the greater sisterhood of women of all colors rejects and repudiates racism, whatever its course, on behalf of husbands, sons, and daughters as well. As a mother, I am grateful to Ward Connerly for another reason. I paraphrase Mr. Connerly in saying that we will not pass racial guilt along like a baton, from our generation to the next. We will not do so because we have the example of how Ward Connerly conducted the CCRI campaign, and its success with the youth of California. Remember, in a mock ballot held before last November's election, California's high school students voted 60-40 in favor of CCRI. What a wonderful message of hope for this great country.

Mr. Connerly, you fostered that message of hope. Randy and I salute you, and we thank you on behalf of our children, Kendra and Ted. God bless you.

REMARKS BY STANLEY DEA

Mr. Connerly, ladies and gentlemen, good evening.

My grandfather came to Chinatown, San Francisco, from southern China in the 1890's. Later he moved to Arizona, where he was followed by my father in 1914 and my mother in 1939. Those early Chinese immigrants all encountered discrimination and bad treatment. However, my forebears believed that America's bright hope for opportunity and freedom far outweighed any setbacks and they had no thought of expecting—much less relying on—racial preferences or quotas to make their way. Despite ill treatment, in two generations my family caught up with everyone else, due to hard work, sacrifice and perseverance.

My family did not believe that equal opportunity means equal results. I grew up in a Chinese home, went through university, received a Ph.D. in engineering, and became a professional engineer. In 1977 I accepted an executive position with the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, or WSSC, a public water and wastewater utility in the Maryland suburbs. From 1977 to 1990, I was director of WSSC's bureau of planning and design, where I supervised approximately 250 employees. I saw WSSC's personnel and contracting policies escalate into preferences and quotas. I took an uncompromising stand for the principles of merit and equal opportunity for all.

In 1989, my department offered a promotion to a white female, the highest ranking candidate. She declined, and my superiors denied my request to re-advertise the position, to broaden the pool of candidates. When I then offered the position to the second-highest ranked candidate, a white male, I was suspended without pay for five days for alleged "gross insubordination" in not hiring a minority and not supporting the so-called affirmative action plan. After a hearing, the charge was reduced to mere "insubordination," but WSSC did not change any of its discriminatory policies.

In 1990, I attempted to fill another opening, determining that the three most-qualified candidates were white males. Because I failed to recommend a minority or female, I was demoted. WSSC took away my office, secretary, company car and all supervisory responsibilities. I was moved to a specially created staff position, banished to the equivalent of corporate Siberia, solely because I refused to discriminate by using race and sex as the primary selection criteria.

In 1993, I filed a civil rights suit against WSSC, represented *pro bono* by the Institute for Justice and a private attorney, Douglas Herbert. I will always be profoundly grateful to Chip Mellor, the institute's president, to Clint Bolick, its litigation director, and to Douglas Herbert for the magnificent job done in representing my case, not only in Federal court, but also in the court of public opinion. The lawsuit alleges that WSSC's retaliation against me violated the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and infringed upon my first amendment free speech rights. It seeks an end to WSSC's quota system as well as reinstatement and damages. The suit is believed to be the first challenge to Government actions that punish opposition to quotas. The case was tried in September 1995; sixteen months later, a verdict is still pending.

Tonight we gather to honor an individual who has worked tirelessly to dismantle the machinery spawned by the false premise that we should use discrimination to cure discrimination—a man who knows that spoils systems based on race and sex imply that those favored are inferior and thus stigmatize competent people as incompetent. Ward Connerly knows that affirmative action doesn't work, that it is morally wrong, and that it must be abolished. He stands on the ledge of allegiance to "liberty and justice for all," and on the principle of the Declaration of Independence, that "all men are created equal." Because of his vision, heroic courage and leadership on proposition 209, he has endured and persevered against vicious *ad hominem* attacks. I am inspired and greatly honored to offer tribute to Ward Connerly tonight.

REMARKS BY LOU ANN MULLEN

Good evening. I want to share the story of our family because it shows how wrong it is when the government uses race to classify individuals.

My family is a so-called multi-racial family. We are often described that way, but I don't think of us that way. To me, we are just my family. It's government that highlights racial differences to keep families like mine apart. That is wrong.

In 1992 we are blessed with our little boy Matthew. When he was nine days old, the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services put him in our foster care, and each day we grew to love him more.

Matthew was, as they say, something else. He would look out the window and smile so big at his beautiful world, as if it were there for him alone to view. He made all our lives matter a little more than they had before. We told the social worker from the department that we wanted Matthew in our lives forever, but she quickly said: "No, don't even think about it. He is black and he will go to a black home." The words still echo in my mind.

For the two years we had Matthew, the social worker and the department searched for a black home. At that time, Matthew's brother, Joseph, was in another foster home. In 1994 the state finally found a black home for both boys, a family that seemed to come from nowhere.

I'll never forget the day that Matthew had to leave. He took the world we had come to love with him that day, except for one treasured memory: His soft little handprint, which had graced his window so many times when he'd look out at his world from our home, the world he had come to know. That little handprint was all I had to hold on to, and I wouldn't let anyone wash it away.

Our family tried to return to our old life, but it wasn't the same without Matthew. After two and one-half months of grieving and wondering what he must be going through, our phone rang. It was the department, calling to say that Matthew's and Joseph's adoptive placement had broken up. The family didn't want Matthew and Joseph anymore, so the department put them back in foster care—but not with us!

We asked once more, "Please! Let us adopt! Let us have Joseph, too!" We were told: "No, it would be in the best interest of the children to have a same-race home." If a same-race home weren't found, they said, they'd put Matthew and Joseph in a group home.

My pain was greater than any I had ever experienced in my life. I prayed and asked God to please make it stop. God answered, and led us to the Institute for Justice, which helped us stand up to the Department and made them consider us as an adoptive family. The department said they had to quote-review-unquote for application, but hopes grew really dim when we saw the boys on TV and in a newspaper ad stating "Brothers need a loving home." The department advertised even though they knew we could give Matthew and Joseph a loving home.

The foster family fell apart. The department needed a place to put the boys, and they called us . . . but they said they would place Matthew and Joseph only as a foster placement, not an adoptive one. We were happy to have the boys, but we knew that department was looking again for a same-race family. We held on to each day with the boys, fearing each would be the last. It was such a harsh punishment for simply wanting to be a family.

In April 1995, the Institute for Justice filed suit. Only then—finally—did the department agree to let us adopt.

I thank God every night for giving me the honor to be Matthew's and Joseph's mother, and for the people at the Institute for Justice. They gave a voice to our boys so that other children might one day look through their windows with a smile, secure that they have a family and love in all the colors of the world.

I am honored to be here tonight, and I am proud to honor a man who sees beyond color and who fights so that all of us can be heard as individuals. God bless you, Ward Connerly.

THE CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY ACT OF 1997

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to introduce the Child Passenger Safety Act of 1997 with my colleague from Maryland, Mrs. MORELLA. This legislation, put simply, seeks to save the lives of thousands of children across the country.

Every day, parents, grandparents, and concerned citizens take the time and responsibility to place young children in child safety seats. Unfortunately, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration [NHTSA] estimates that nearly two-thirds of all child safety restraints are misused.

Because of this alarmingly high rate of misuse and the benefits that can be seen by the proper use of child safety seats, NHTSA commissioned a blue ribbon panel in 1995 to study this issue and make recommendations on ways to solve the problem of misuse. Impressively, safety experts, Government agencies, safety seat manufacturers, and several auto manufacturers sat down together with a common interest and concern, and explored options for communicating the issues of compatibility and proper and secure installation of child restraint systems.

Representing thousands of conscientious and responsible parents who place their children in safety seats every day, unaware of the risks and dangers that their children may face, I took great interest in this issue. I have worked closely with Congresswoman MORELLA for the past 2 years to raise awareness of the issue, encourage and support the auto manufacturers' voluntary efforts, and participate in education drives. In fact, I have attended two child safety seat check events in my district and the turnout by the public was most encouraging and impressive. I also attended the signing ceremony of a partnership between General Motors and the National Safe Kids Campaign last year which created a major, national grass roots campaign to educate parents about child passenger safety issues. General Motors, and now Chrysler, have voluntarily committed millions of dollars and considerable manpower to this cause and are to be commended for their efforts.

However, Mr. Speaker, resources are scarce and all of the concerned child safety organizations and consumer groups are stretched for dollars to sponsor safety seat check events. Therefore, this legislation would provide \$7.5 million in fiscal years 1998 and 1999 to the Secretary of Transportation for the purpose of awarding education and training program grants to agencies and associated organizations on the local, State, and national level.

Mr. Speaker, NHTSA is to be commended for their leadership on this issue. We must support their efforts as they continue to develop guidelines under which there would be a single, uniform attachment system. In the meantime, we must commit the necessary funding to ensure that we inform and educate the public on how to best protect their children.

The number of children who die each year in motor vehicle crashes is truly devastating. However, this number is made all the more egregious because so many young children die as a result of unknown misuse of these devices.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to cosponsor this very important legislation in the days and weeks ahead. And, as Child Passenger safety awareness week, and all of the attention it has received, winds down, we must not relinquish our zeal to ensure that all parents, grandparents, and concerned adults

receive any and all of the information and educational tools necessary to protect our Nation's children. Thank you.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

HON. RICK LAZIO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. LAZIO. Mr. Speaker. The aftermath of the tragic crash of TWA Flight 800 has placed an enormous burden on the resources of the people of New York. Today my colleagues GARY ACKERMAN and MIKE FORBES join me in introducing legislation directing FEMA to reimburse Suffolk County, Nassau County, the city and the State of New York for the expenses they incurred as a result of the crash. These expenses include the State and local costs for salvage operations, investigation of the crash and identification of the victims.

State officials break down the costs as follows: New York State, \$5 million; Suffolk County, \$5.8 million; Nassau County, \$325,000; and New York City, \$1.1 million, totaling over \$12.4 million. New York, especially my home county, Suffolk County, has been at the forefront of the efforts to find the answers to this catastrophe for the victims families and for the American people. State and local governments provided a strong foundation and infrastructure to enable the Federal agencies involved to operate effectively and efficiently. State and local officials provided a number of helicopters and support personnel, divers, housing for Federal officials, morgue services, mental health and crisis counseling for the victims' families. All of which placed a tremendous strain on State and local budgets. It also has taken its toll on the dedicated men and women who have devoted long hours to the salvage operation sometimes under dangerous conditions. Our legislation will ensure that these efforts do not translate into cuts in other needed State and county services.

The cause of the crash remains unknown, and since it happened over the ocean, finding out why it occurred has been extremely difficult. It is not known whether the crash is the result of terrorism—if so, the Federal Government will bear the costs, negligence—then those at fault are responsible for paying, the action of a private party, or something else. Nevertheless, simply because the cause of the crash is inconclusive, the financial burden of the recovery, investigation and identification of the victims should not fall unfairly upon the residents of the State of New York and the County of Suffolk. President Clinton recognized the unusual circumstances surrounding the crash, personally visited the site and pledged his support.

Last September, I asked the President to reimburse New York for the costs it incurred from the disaster. Further, Governor Pataki and other New York Republicans have formally requested the Federal assistance. Our legislation will ensure that the people of New York will receive the financial relief they deserve, and I ask all members of this chamber to support this important bill.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CENTER
FOR AIDS**HON. KEN BENTSEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Center for AIDS upon the dedication of its new location in Houston on Friday, February 14, 1997. This larger, better-equipped center will ensure that HIV/AIDS patients and physicians have comprehensive and up-to-date information about AIDS treatment and research. I wish to thank and congratulate the founders of the center, L. Joel Martinez, Chris Kerr, and Michael Peranteau, for their life-saving leadership.

With tremendous medical advances such as protease inhibitors, AIDS is becoming more and more a treatable and survivable disease. But successful treatment depends on obtaining the right medical information as quickly as possible. That is what the Center for AIDS is all about.

This new center will provide critical sources of information, including a publicly accessible computer to search the Internet free-of-charge; a collection of medical and scientific journals specifically targeting HIV/AIDS; and a daily bulletin board on HIV/AIDS treatment options that patients can review. Through the work of its founders, the Center for AIDS created a newsletter called Research Initiative Treatment Action [RITA] to distribute to patients and advocates on a weekly basis. Each week, advocates, patients, and medical professionals receive the latest information about world-wide research and treatment options.

The center also provides free literature from AIDS organizations and pharmaceutical companies about various treatment options. With this information, patients and their doctors can make better decisions about their health and be better consumers of health care services. This will save lives and reduce treatment costs.

The center will also serve as a gathering place for community forums and monthly treatment meetings. With more space, the center will be able to serve more clients and help more people.

The Center for AIDS was founded in 1995 by three dedicated individuals, L. Joel Martinez, Chris Kerr, and Michael Peranteau. Both Michael and Joel are HIV positive. These individuals recognized that there was a need for accurate, up-to-date information about HIV and AIDS treatment. The center was created to fill this void. The center currently has a budget of \$238,000 all of which is privately funded.

Mr. L. Joel Martinez, a founder of the center, serves as the scientific and medical expert who analyzes and gathers relevant medical information about HIV/AIDS. Mr. Martinez also works with local medical professionals to ensure that HIV/AIDS patients are included in research protocols at the Texas Medical Center.

I commend the founders, staff, and volunteers of the Center for AIDS for their life-saving work. They are a vital link in our increasingly successful fight against AIDS.

MAKING CHANGES TO THE COASTAL
BARRIER RESOURCES ACT**HON. MARSHALL "MARK" SANFORD**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the intent of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act [CBRA] to remove Federal incentives for new construction on undeveloped coastal barriers. However, we should not deny Federal flood insurance to individuals who purchased property in developed communities. One example is Huntington Marsh, SC, which was erroneously included in the 1990 Coastal Barrier Improvement Act. For this reason, I am introducing a bill to make technical corrections to maps relating to the Coastal Barrier Resources System.

In 1988, the Department of Interior issued a report to Congress recommending coastal property for inclusion in the Coastal Barrier Resources System. In a letter I received from Noreen Clough with the Fish and Wildlife Service [FWS], she stated: "The service [FWS] did not recommend inclusion of Huntington Marsh area into the CBRS (report to Congress in 1988)." There is no information indicating why Huntington Marsh or the surrounding area known as SC-03 was included in the final map approved by Congress.

According to her letter, "Neither the Department nor the service contacted individual landowners that were potentially affected." Had this community been allowed the opportunity to voice objection, they would not have been included in the act because the property qualified as a developed rather than an undeveloped area. Under the description of the bill, developed communities are exempt from inclusion in the act. A community is considered undeveloped if it contains less than one structure per 5 acres. In 1990, more than 10 homes were built on the 20 acres located in the Huntington Marsh subdivision and many other property owners had plans for construction of homes on their property. This illustrates that the community would have been considered developed under the law.

Adding or removing areas from a CBRA unit requires an act of Congress. This bill does not amend the CBRA, it merely redraws the boundary to omit the 20 acres of Huntington Marsh from the restrictions under the act. This change will only affect property on the southwestern edge of SC-03 along Highway 17 that was erroneously included in the first place. I urge your support for this legislation.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, because I was unable to participate in Tuesday's Special Order commemorating Black History Month, I respectfully submit this extension of remarks on behalf of Sgt. Henry Johnson's candidacy for the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Sgt. Henry Johnson, an African-American soldier from Albany, NY, performed extraordinary acts of bravery during World War I. However, he has yet to receive the honor and recognition he deserves from the Nation he so heroically served.

According to the Department of the Army, on the night of May 15, 1918, near Verdun, France, then Private Johnson, a member of the all-Black 369th Infantry Regiment, gallantly fought off an attack from an enemy patrol of at least 12 German soldiers. On that night, Johnson killed four German soldiers, wounded numerous others, rescued a wounded comrade, and captured a stockpile of weapons. He accomplished this feat by using grenades, rifle fire, and engaging in hand-to-hand combat with both the butt of his rifle and his French bolo knife. In the midst of the fighting, Johnson was severely wounded.

To acknowledge and reward this act of valor, the French Government honored Johnson on May 24, 1918—just 9 days after the engagement. Citing "his magnificent example of courage and energy," it awarded Johnson with the Croix de Guerre, for all intents and purposes the highest strictly military honor a foreign soldier can receive. Last year, 78 years after the fact, the Department of Defense finally awarded Henry Johnson the Purple Heart. Mr. Speaker, he deserves the Congressional Medal of Honor.

During this celebration of African-American History, I need not remind you of the great injustices that took place in our Nation during the years of legalized racial segregation. No one disputes that the values for which American stands were undermined during that period. I simply urge that those who bravely fought for those values, in spite of the then-existing practices of American society, receive their just reward.

The fact is that Sergeant Johnson and many other African-American soldiers performed heroic service during World War I. To date, only one of these men has received the Medal of Honor—and that was awarded 73 years after his death on the battlefield. This is wrong. We must correct this blemish on our history.

If we as a Nation are going to realize, as President Clinton noted in his State of the Union, that our "diversity is our greatest strength," we must settle the errors of our past. If we are going to "give all of our citizens, whatever their background, an opportunity to achieve their greatness," we must honor those who have already earned great distinction.

To be sure, as our colleague, the gentleman from Oklahoma, reminded us just a week ago, "Government can't ease all the pain" of racial division. But when Government can effectively act, it should; when Government has been part of the problem, it must be part of the solution. I therefore urge all the Members of this House to do justice to the memory of St. Henry Johnson and support the effort to award him the Congressional Medal of Honor.

DISASTER ASSISTANCE LOANS

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that will help our Nation's farmers survive disastrous outbreaks of plant viruses and diseases which virtually wipe out entire crops. This bill would ensure that crop losses resulting from plant viruses and other devastating plant diseases are included under the crop insurance program as well as the noninsured crop assistance programs and that agriculture producers who suffer these losses are eligible for emergency loans.

The current U.S. Department of Agriculture crop insurance and noninsured assistance programs do not specify which crops are eligible for insurance. This makes our farmers very vulnerable to administrative reviews on whether a particular crop is eligible for assistance usually with negative results.

Under current law, crop diseases are not eligible for low-interest emergency loans. Agriculture producers can only qualify for emergency loans when crop damages are caused by adverse weather conditions and other natural phenomena which have caused severe physical property damage or production losses. Since the USDA does not consider plant disease-virus a natural disaster, farmers are limited to USDA funds-resources which are due to weather as causing production or physical losses.

In Hawaii, nearly 300 farmers are suffering from the disastrous effects of the Papaya Ringspot Virus [PRV]. The disease produces lumpy, tasteless fruit and severely reduces production and eventually kills the plants. Papaya farmers estimate that they will incur \$27 million of losses due to the loss of these PRV-infested trees.

A similar situation is taking place in the Southwest and Southeast United States where wheat producers are battling the Karnal bunt fungus. This disease gives a fishy odor and taste of flour made from affected wheat. In one State alone, producers have already lost an estimated \$25 million.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation's farmers are the envy of the world. They provide us with the highest quality food and ensure that we will always have a stable food supply. We need to provide financial assistance when they are hit by disaster, natural or disease. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation and help our farmers survive these natural borne disasters.

COMMEMORATION OF MALIBU
CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS
DAY

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate February 14 as Childhood Can-

cer Awareness Day in the city of Malibu, CA. I would also ask that you join me in honoring the American Cancer Fund for Children and its founder Steve Firestein for their diligent work helping children. The tireless work of this organization has not only highlighted the issue of childhood cancer in the United States, but has provided a positive influence on hundreds of young lives effected with cancer. I am pleased to offer my highest congratulations for the deep sense of community the American Cancer Fund for Children has given to the city of Malibu. I would also like to commend the city of Malibu as it adds itself to the growing number of communities who have adopted a Childhood Cancer Awareness Day in the Los Angeles area. I am very proud to have community-based efforts of this caliber in my district, and am thrilled to have the opportunity to bring such accomplishments to the attention of this body.

Each year approximately 10,000 more American children will be diagnosed with cancer, making cancer the leading cause of death by disease among children in the United States. Motivated by these losses the American Cancer Fund for Children has worked tirelessly to heighten community awareness of childhood cancer. All too often the costs incurred in the treatment of cancer far exceeds the average family's financial resources. The American Cancer Fund for Children has established itself to provide financial assistance to such families who find themselves experiencing financial hardship with a child undergoing a bone marrow transplant. The organization understands the importance of communities coming together to provide social services to those families in need, not wanting one child in need of treatment to be turned away because their families could not afford them. As the demands for cancer treatment grow each year, the organization has also taken on greater challenges to meet the demand for patient and family services to help ensure the quality of care to better promote the chances of survival. These services have provided an assortment of patient psychosocial services designed to nurture self-esteem, encourage peer interaction and better generate special patient communication. The Main Street Children's Services Program has received praise from across the United States for their efforts in providing gifts via visits for the emotional support of the children. These efforts have lifted the spirits of children nationwide through the simple gift of giving with a human touch.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me and our colleagues in recognizing the accomplishments of the American Cancer Fund for Children in cooperation with the city of Malibu, in highlighting childhood cancer with the establishment of a Childhood Cancer Awareness Day.

"TOWNSHIP OF THE YEAR"
BESTOWED ON MAINE TOWNSHIP

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, please permit me to share with my colleagues the recent news

that Maine Township, IL was named our State's "Township of the Year."

Bestowed annually by the Illinois Township Association, the award was presented to Maine Township for its very innovative programs for senior citizens. The award follows a similar one awarded to the township last year for its programs for youths.

Maine Township's Adult and Senior Services Department was created in 1985. Today, the department provides a wide range of programs and services for the estimated 40,000 adults over the age of 55 who live in Maine Township. In addition to a wide array of social activities, the township also sponsors the Senior Citizen Information and Assistance Service. The service provides a comprehensive guide to available resources including senior housing, medical services, social and mental health services, nutrition, home delivered meals, employment, energy assistance, social activities, and tax information.

In recent years the township has also placed growing emphasis on intergenerational programs that bring together seniors, children and young adults in numerous educational activities.

No programs as comprehensive as those offered to Maine's seniors could exist without the dedication of many great people. Permit me to offer a note of congratulations to the many hard-working and dedicated township officials including Supervisor Mark Thompson; Trustees Robert Provenzano, Willard "Bill" Bell, Regan D. Ebert and Carol A. Teschky; Clerk Gary K. Warner; Assessor Thomas E. Rueckert; Collector Anita D. Rifkind; and Highway Commissioner Bill Fraser.

THE AMERICAN FLAG—A TRIBUTE TO THE SYMBOL OF AMERICA'S FREEDOM

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the great symbol of freedom in these United States, the American flag. The American flag is nationally and internationally recognized as the symbol of the United States and all that it stands for. Today, my colleague, Congressman GERALD SOLOMON and I introduced a resolution to amend the Constitution in order to prohibit the physical desecration of the U.S. flag. I am proud to say that as of today more than 200 of my colleagues have agreed to cosponsor this important and historic piece of legislation.

For more than 200 years the American flag was the proud symbol of our great Nation. Most important, the flag was protected by law from any type of desecration. Today, though it still serves as the symbol, it is no longer protected by law. In 1989, the Supreme Court ruled in *Texas versus Johnson*, that the violent and destructive act of burning and spitting, and trampling on the U.S. flag was a form of expression which is protected by the freedom of speech. In the time since that ruling more than 49 States, including my home State of Illinois, have passed memorializing resolutions

which request that Congress ratify a constitutional amendment protecting the flag. Clearly, this body has been called upon to protect the flag from any further desecration by voting for a constitutional amendment. Deliberate desecration of the American flag is truly an insult to those who fought and died to preserve and protect the rights of all Americans. Deliberate desecration of the flag should no longer be tolerated. That is what we seek to accomplish by introducing this important amendment.

During times of war, the flag became more than a symbol of the United States, it provided comfort and encouragement to our soldiers abroad. Though they were miles away from home, the flag reminded them of the great land and freedom that they were fighting for. The sight of the flag reinforced their strength of belief in the war they were fighting. American soldiers were reminded of the basic rights that they were protecting. The rights that don't exist in other countries; rights that make America the land of freedom that it is today.

Congressman SOLOMON and I are both committed to fighting this fight. My colleague and I, believe that this amendment, which has received bipartisan support is long overdue. Americans all over the world recognize the American flag as the symbol of freedom, fairness, and equality. We must do everything in our power to have the law protect the flag from desecration. I am proud to join Congressman SOLOMON in bringing this amendment before the Congress. I hope that all of my colleagues will join Congressman SOLOMON and I, in passing this historic and important amendment.

SALUTING SALENA GLENN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the accomplishments of Ms. Salena Glenn who has dedicated her life to public service. For numerous years, she has strived to ensure that Brooklyn resident's concerns are heard. As chief of staff for Enoch Williams, Ms. Glenn oversees the daily operations of his office and attends community meetings of school boards, district service cabinets, and community precinct councils.

In addition to her work as chief of staff, Ms. Glenn coordinates various community projects throughout Brooklyn. Born in Orangeburg County, SC, she enjoys a reputation as a community leader. As president of the Unity Democratic Club, Ms. Glenn has worked to enlighten the central Brooklyn community about the advantages of participating in the political process.

Ms. Glenn truly serves as a shining beacon of hope for the Brooklyn community. A resident of Bedford-Stuyvesant, Ms. Glenn has a daughter Delores, and a son, Nathaniel. She also enjoys a reputation as an outstanding soloist in the Antioch Baptist Church Choir.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the many years of invaluable assistance she has provided youth and the community-at-large. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Salena Glenn.

CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, Los Angeles County has designated the week of February 24, 1997 as "Childhood Cancer Awareness Week." In honor of this proclamation, I ask my colleagues to join me in calling attention to the tragedy of childhood cancer and in working to defeat this debilitating enemy of our children.

Cancer is the leading cause of death in the United States today. Each year, approximately 10,000 American children are diagnosed with cancer. Moreover, it is the leading cause of death by disease among children in our country. While great strides are made each year in research, treatment, and prevention of childhood cancer, we must remain vigilant in our efforts to search for cures and more effective treatments.

I ask my colleagues to reaffirm their dedication to eliminating childhood cancer and to take a moment to express their appreciation to the devoted individuals working in the fight against this dreaded disease.

INVOLUNTARY LIVESTOCK CONVERSION RELIEF ACT

HON. JOHN R. THUNE

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to give farmers and ranchers tax relief when they need it most. I thank my colleagues, Representatives Smith, Latham, Hill, Barrett, Emerson, and Pomeroy for joining me in this effort.

As you may know, extremely harsh storms have pounded the upper Great Plains this winter. As a result, I have been flooded with calls from South Dakotans who want to know what we can do in Washington to help them deal with this horrid winter. The agricultural producers—farmers and ranchers—have been hit the hardest of all. To date, cattle losses are estimated to exceed 100,000 head. With the prospect of spring flooding eminent, further losses seem certain. While producers in the Midwest qualify for some assistance, additional relief is still needed.

The tremendous amount of snow has blocked access to feed and has limited space in livestock yards. As a result, some producers would like to sell some of their stock now. The result would be a stiff tax liability at a time when they can not afford it.

The Involuntary Livestock Conversion Relief Act will allow income derived from the sale of livestock to be deferred up to 1 year. The bill will also allow a producer to sell livestock and, within 2 years, repurchase similar livestock without realizing a gain as a result of the sale. Livestock producers must show that such a sale is not a usual business practice but is a result of floods or blizzards. The conditions have to be severe enough to trigger Federal assistance in relief of that condition.

Under current tax law a producer can do this only in drought conditions. This is why I propose changing the wording of the code to include "flood or other weather-related conditions."

I believe it is time we give ranchers some options in how they do business during a time of need. This bill represents a common-sense approach to lending our dedicated livestock producers a hand when they need it. Instead of a cash payment, the Federal Government can provide a capital gains tax break. I realize this legislation may not help all in need, but it is an important piece of the relief puzzle.

I hope my colleagues will join me in their support of this bill. If they do, they will be joining several others concerned with the economic viability of the Nation's heartland.

TRIBUTE TO LITHUANIA

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the country of Lithuania. In just a few days, on February 16, Lithuania will celebrate its sixth year as a truly free and independent country. Since proclaiming its independence Lithuania has implemented a Democratic policy. Democracy, for this country, is a vast change from its previous 50 years of forced annexation by the former Soviet Union.

Although it has been, to some degree, a struggling progression, the overall picture is a steady one with greater potential on the horizon. In the past 6 years, Lithuania has seen monumental revision from drafting its own constitution, holding elections for its own Parliament and President, to developing a market economy.

The old Soviet methodology and regularity of bureaucracy has dwindled almost to the point of extinction as privatization has taken a strong hold. Because of their privatization priority policy, 85 percent of state-owned enterprises have been transmitted to the private sector. In addition the development of a western-oriented program of reform regarding trade and banking has led to an increase in trade with western countries, gaining from just 15.3 percent in 1990 to over 60 percent in 1995.

Another indication of Lithuania's progression toward Democracy and a market economy is that about two-thirds of the economic product is now industrial. There has also been so much growth potential emerging that foreign interest and investment has increased substantially.

Just before the collapse of the Soviet regime in 1991 Soviet troops attacked Lithuania's capital city, Vilnius. During the initial invasion several Lithuanians were wounded, some resulting in fatalities. For those who perished, they will be remembered as the "Defenders of Freedom." I stand before you today to commend these defenders and all of Lithuania for what has become their common goal so eloquently stated by President Algirdas Brazauskas, "Now all people have a common goal: to live in an independent and free country."

REFORM TERM LIMITS

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, term limit supporters across Missouri—like me—are rightfully disappointed that the vote on congressional term limits is doomed to failure. I am a cosponsor of a constitutional amendment calling for tough, 12-year term limits for Senators and Representatives, alike. It had been my hope that a united stand for term limits would finally lead to real limits with teeth. On Wednesday, the House of Representatives will vote on term limits and it appears my vote in favor will be for naught, thanks to a problem that has grown out of control—division among conservative ranks.

Last November, voters in Missouri and eight other States approved so-called scarlet letter constitutional amendments. These scarlet letter amendments require Members of Congress from Missouri and the other affected States to vote for term limits of 6 years in the House and 12 in the Senate. If Members don't vote for these particular limits, or if Members vote for different limits, the phrase "disregarded voter instruction on term limits" will appear next to their names on the next ballot if they choose to seek re-election. Disregarding for a moment the fact that ballots will soon be cluttered with inaccurate information, this sounds like a good idea. Why not put a little muscle behind the campaign to enact term limits which, after all, are supported by 70 percent of Americans, ourselves included.

A not-so-funny thing happened on the way to the vote on term limits. As sure as the Mississippi flows south, the vote on term limits today will fail. It won't fail for lack of general term limit support, but will fail because of the handcuffs placed on the 30 Members of Congress who come from States where the scarlet letter initiative passed. Each State constitutional amendment—they are all different—requires that Members from those States vote for different versions of term limits. Even though term limit supporters garnered 227 votes in the last Congress (it takes two-thirds of Congress, or 290 votes, to pass a constitutional amendment) and even though more supporters of term limits were elected to Congress last November, there's no chance that tough, commonsense congressional limits can not pass. Missouri's scarlet letter amendment has joined with similar, but different, amendments in other States and backfired against the shared goal of conservatives to enact tough term limits.

So how did this mess come to be? Most Missouri voters will probably be surprised to learn that the scarlet letter amendment, when it appeared on the ballot in the voting booth, deceptively asked if voters support term limits, but did not state that Members would be prohibited from supporting other term limit bills if the three term limit fails. In fact, the fine print of this amendment explicitly instructs Members to vote against all other term limit bills. Put simply, the amendment reburies limits of three terms in the House, or nothing at all.

With that in mind, I intend to vote for every single reasonable measure that would limit

congressional terms to either 6, 8, 10 or 12 years when the House considers term limit legislation. I campaigned in support of term limits and intend to carry through on that commitment.

Term limit supporters should consider this farce. The scarlet letter will likely be invoked even if I vote for the 6-year term limit, which is certain to fail despite my support. The scarlet letter will be invoked simply because I later vote for a different term limit bill that has a realistic chance of passing.

As if that weren't enough, different versions of the scarlet letter laws passed in each of the nine States. Thus, if Members from those States precisely follow those instructions, they must all vote for a different version of term limits—and against any others. It's the equivalent of asking the offensive line of the St. Louis Rams to sack their own quarterback each time they take to the field.

In the end, I will vote in favor of each and every serious term limit amendment brought before the House this week. If that means I invoke a misleading scarlet letter, then so be it. Those of us charged with the responsibility of dealing with the legislative agenda of the people on a practical basis are duty-bound to deliver what is feasible, and that includes term limits that stand a chance of passing Congress. We will never succeed in passing real term limits as long as outside groups continue to divide conservatives who support them. In our efforts to pass term limits with teeth, we should remember that when united, we win, when divided, we fail.

THE CROP INSURANCE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1997

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker I rise today to introduce a desperately needed piece of legislation, the Crop Insurance Improvement Act. This bill will restore fairness to the crop insurance system and make crop insurance a reasonable risk management tool for producers in North Dakota.

In my State farmers have suffered through three successive seasons of disastrous crop production and the fourth is already on its way. Abnormally high rainfall and wet conditions have prevented farmers from planting crops and have ruined crops that were planted. Through no fault of their own, these farmers have seen their crops destroyed and livelihood threatened year after year.

Now producers are being told that they will have to pay higher premiums for lower coverage as a result of these losses. Many producers are now faced with unaffordable insurance bills that provide little coverage. Nothing could be more unfair to the farmers of my State or any farmers who have suffered crop losses due to natural disasters.

Last year 172 producers in North Dakota were placed on the nonstandard classification list following 3 years of successive losses. Nonstandard classification results in higher premiums and lower coverage. This year, hundreds more producers face a similar situation

because of the continued disaster. Even if the flooding and wet conditions were to stop today, many farmers would not be able to afford the crop insurance they need because of losses in previous disaster years.

My bill would ease this situation and restore some fairness and sanity to the crop insurance program. The Crop Insurance Improvement Act would provide exceptions for producers farming in areas declared a disaster by the President or the Secretary of Agriculture. It would prevent the listing of producers on the nonstandard classification list if they had losses related to a major declared disaster.

This bill would also prevent FCIC from counting losses in disaster years in the calculation of insurable yields. Poor yields in years of natural disaster should not affect a producer's future insurance. Disasters represent abnormal, uncontrollable forces of nature and should not cripple a farmer for years to come with higher insurance premiums and inadequate coverage.

The ultimate goal of the bill is to keep crop insurance as a viable risk management tool for our Nation's farmers. If producers cannot afford crop insurance, or if the insurance will not cover a reasonable yield, then we have left them without a safety net.

Participation in crop insurance has increased since Congress reformed the program in 1994. Farmers have taken more responsibility for their risk management and will have to take even more now that the price safety net has been removed by the 1996 farm bill. Now it is time to improve the program so that we are not slamming the door on a valuable tool responsible producers use to manage their risk. I encourage my colleagues to support this necessary and commonsense improvement in the crop insurance program.

**"FOUR POINTS OF THE COMPASS"
BALINT VAZSONYI'S DIRECTION
FOR AMERICA**

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, my friend and adviser, Dr. Balint Vazsonyi, delivered a lecture today at the Heritage Foundation, which was entitled "Four Points of the Compass: Restoring America's Sense of Direction." The lecture drew a wide cross section of men and women who are in the forefront of Americans concerned about our constitutional underpinnings. Those taking part included Senator ROD GRAMS of Minnesota, who delivered an insightful evaluation of Dr. Vazsonyi's lecture, Matthew Spalding of the Heritage Foundation, and Daniel McDonald of the Potomac Foundation.

As many of our colleagues know, Dr. Vazsonyi's thesis is one to which I strongly subscribe. Indeed, I am pleased to acknowledge the significant role he has played in helping advance new America, the vision expression that we launched last year. That vision is about restoring civil society through structural reform that focuses on revitalizing society's nongovernment institutions—family, business, religious/civic.

Mr. Speaker, Balint Vazsonyi's lecture is recommended reading for all who are working to assure that government's grasp doesn't exceed its constitutional reach. I am pleased to make it part of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD at this point.

**FOUR POINTS OF THE COMPASS: RESTORING
AMERICA'S SENSE OF DIRECTION**

Although the press appeared not to notice, President Clinton, in his Inaugural Address, called for a new Constitution. He borrowed language from the Declaration of Independence where in 1776 Thomas Jefferson presented the argument for new government. On January 20th, 1997, Mr. Clinton proclaimed, "We need a new government for a new century." He proceeded to set forth all the things this new government would give the American people.

Today, I come before you to argue that we need just the opposite. We, at the Center for the American Founding, believe that a tool is necessary to guide us back to the path of our existing Constitution. We offer this tool to the decision makers, legislators and judges of America and ask all of you to help us develop it to its full potential. Because it points the way, we think of it as a compass.

What kind of country will exert its best efforts for the benefit of all mankind? Or engage in war without expectation of gain? What kind of country makes it possible that a person who did not grow up in it feel sufficiently at home to step forward with a major initiative? What kind of country has long-time professionals come together to hear a relative novice with a foreign accent speak on national issues? What kind of country? A country which is one of a kind.

As we contemplate the future, it is essential that we keep in mind that America, indeed, is one of a kind. Some believe with all their heart that people, and their aspirations, are the same everywhere. This may be so. But the nation established here more than two hundred years ago has neither precedent nor a parallel in the known history of this planet. Not its capacity for success; not its capacity for strength; not its capacity for goodness. It is one of a kind.

One-of-a-kind. A big word. You hear it and think of Shakespeare. Or Beethoven. Or George Washington. We look at their work and try to understand what makes it so. It is a hopeless endeavor. But with America, there are definite ingredients we can identify quite easily: the rule of law, individual rights, guaranteed property and so forth. A funny thing, ingredients. We acknowledge their importance in all sorts of scenarios, yet ignore them when it comes to matters of life and death. If we eat something memorable, we want the recipe. With food, we know without the shadow of a doubt that the ingredients make the thing.

Chocolate ice cream, for example, takes chocolate, cream and sugar. If, instead, you use ground beef, mustard and "AI" sauce, you don't expect chocolate ice cream to come out of the process. Whatever else it will be, chocolate ice cream it will not be. Ice creams come in many varieties. America is one of a kind. Do we honestly expect it to remain America if the ingredients are changed?

Over the past decades, the Rule of Law has been displaced by something called "social justice." Group rights and arbitrary privileges make a mockery of the constitutional rights of the individual. Where not so long ago all Americans could feel secure in their right to acquire and hold property, government today is no longer discussing whether—

only how much of it to confiscate, and how to redistribute it. As you see, the ingredients have already undergone drastic change. Is it reasonable to hope that America will nevertheless remain America?

And the greatest variety of assaults is launched against something I have come to refer to as "national identity." Now, I realize that some people might have a reaction to that phrase because the term has been used by others as a wedge. I use it as a magnet. As such, it is a necessity. Something needs to bind people together, especially when they have converged, and continue to converge upon a place from every corner of the globe.

Identity is about being similar or being different. Since our differences have been amply provided for by nature, we have to agree about those aspects of our lives which will make us similar. For the shared history which other nations have, Americans have successfully substituted a shared belief in, and adherence to, certain principles. A common language took the place of a shared culture. No state religion was established, but a Bible-based morality taken for granted. Add to this a certain work ethic, an expectation of competence in your field of work (whether you split the atom or sweep the floor), a spirit of voluntary cooperation, insistence on choice, a fierce sense of independence—and you have the ingredients of the American identity. And, if you prefer to call it American character or, as George Washington, "national character," it will serve our purpose so long as we remain agreed about the ingredients. For it is these ingredients that have distinguished us from other societies, and enabled those who sweep the floor today to split the atom tomorrow.

Today, our nation's leaders are engaged in choosing a path to pursue. Yet, all along, we have had a path to follow. It is clearly pointed in the Declaration of Independence and our founders complemented it with a superb road map they called the Constitution of the United States. Add to this the glossary we know as The Federalist Papers and it is hard to see why and how we could have lost our sense of direction. But lost it we have. That is why we need a compass—the compass in the title of these remarks.

Between 1776 and 1791, our compass was calibrated to keep us on the path of betterment—as individuals and as a nation. We even had a kind of "North Star," a magnetic North, in what we call the Rule of Law. But instead, we now have rule by the lawmaker. Every member of the Executive, every member of the Judiciary has become a potential lawmaker and in most cases they use the potential to the hilt.

Yet the Rule of Law stands for the exact opposite. As its basic property, it places the fundamental tenets beyond the reach of politics and politicians. Whereas it confers legitimacy upon subsequent laws that spring from its eternal well, it denies legitimacy to all legislative maneuvers that corrupt its purpose. It holds the makers, executives and adjudicators of the law accountable at all times. Above all, it demands equal application to every man, woman and child. Within its own framework, a prescribed majority may amend the law. But as the law stands in any given moment, it must be applied equally. If accomplished, nothing in the history of human societies can match the significance and magnificence of equality before the law.

The aspiration for equality before the law began with the Magna Carta or even earlier, in King Arthur's court, where knights sat at a round table. But it took Thomas Jefferson

to etch the concept in the minds of freedom-loving people everywhere, more permanently than posterity could have etched the words in the marble of the Jefferson Memorial. And even then, after those immortal words of the Declaration of Independence had been written, it took most of two centuries before America, land of the many miracles, almost made it a reality for the first time ever.

But it was not to be. The rule of law, our only alternative to the law of the jungle, came under attack just as it was about to triumph. The attacker displayed the irresistible charm of the temptress, the ardent of the enraged avenger, dressed itself in intoxicating clichés, and wore the insignia of the highest institutions of learning. It called itself "social justice."

Let me make it clear: I do not speak of social conscience. That is a frame of mind, a noble sentiment, a measure of civilization. Precisely for that reason, while it has everything to do with our conduct, it has nothing whatever to do with laws. "Social justice," on the other hand, aims at the heart of our legal system by setting an unattainable goal, by fueling discontent, by insinuating a permanent state of hopelessness.

But above all, social justice is unacceptable as the basis for a stable society because, unlike the Law, it is what anyone says it is on any given day. We need only to move back a few years, or travel a few thousand miles, and one is certain to find an entirely different definition of social justice. At the end of the day, it is nothing more than an empty slogan, to be filled by power-hungry political activists so as to enlist the participation of well-intentioned people.

The Rule of Law and a world according to "Social Justice" are mutually exclusive. One cannot have it both ways.

What have the Rule of Law and the pursuit of "social justice" respectively spawned over time? The Rule of Law gave birth to a series of individual rights. In other words, rights vested solely in individuals. Only individuals are capable of having rights, just as only individuals can be free. We say a society is free if the individuals who make up that society are free. For individuals to be free, they must have certain unalienable rights, and others upon which they had agreed with one another.

Social justice has spawned an aberration called group rights. Group rights are the negation of individual rights. Group rights say in effect, "you cannot and do not have rights as an individual—only as the member of a certain group." The Rule of Law knows nothing about groups, therefore it could not provide for, or legitimize rights of groups. Groups have no standing in the eyes of the Law. And, since their so-called rights are invariably created and conferred by persons of temporary authority, they are "subject to change without notice," as the saying goes, just like the definition of social justice itself.

Individual rights recognize and promote similarity. Group rights promote differences and stereotypes. Individual rights and group rights are mutually exclusive. One cannot have it both ways.

Among our individual rights, the right to acquire and hold property has a special place. If ever a concept came to be developed to protect the weak against the strong, to balance inborn gifts with the fruits of sheer diligence and industry, property inviolate is its name. But who am I to speak, after John Locke, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison have pronounced on this topic. They held that civilized society is predicated upon the

sanctity of private property, and that to guarantee it is government's primary function. Without absolute property there is no incentive. Without absolute property there is no security. Without absolute property there is no liberty. The freedom to enter into contract, the freedom to keep what is mine, the freedom to dispose of what is mine underlies all our liberties.

Neither the search for "social justice" nor so-called group rights recognize, or respect, private property. They look upon flesh-and-blood individuals as faceless members of a multitude who, together, create a certain amount of goods. These goods belong to what they call "The Community." Then certain people decide who needs what and, being privy to some higher wisdom, distribute—actually redistribute—the goods. Redistribution is pursuant to group rights expressed in something called entitlement. Entitlements are based neither on law nor on accomplishment. Entitlements are based on membership in a certain group, and we have seen that groups are designated by persons of temporary authority, rather than the law.

The right to property and entitlements through redistribution are mutually exclusive. One cannot have it both ways.

We have been ordered by the prophets of social justice to replace our national identity with something they call "multi-culturalism." I will confess that some time in the past, I might have shared the allergic reaction some of you experience in the face of "national" and "identity." But then I noticed the enormous importance the social-justice crowd attaches to the destruction of the American identity. Just think: bi-lingual education and multi-lingual ballots. Removal of the founding documents from our schools. Anti-American history standards. Exiling the Ten Commandments. Replacing American competence with generic "self-esteem." Replacing voluntarism with coercion. Encouraging vast numbers of new immigrants to ignore the very reasons which brought them here in the first place. The list goes on, and sooner or later will affect national defense, if it hasn't already.

And for those who would point to Yugoslavia as proof of the tragedy nationalism can cause, let me say that a healthy national identity is utterly distinct from nationalism. Like the United States, Yugoslavia was created. But unlike in the case of the United States, ingredients for a national identity were not provided, and Yugoslavia imploded at the first opportunity precisely for that reason. Had it not done so, it would have succumbed to the first external attack, for no Croat would lay down his life for the good of Serbs or Bosnians. Will Americans lay down their lives if America is nothing but a patchwork of countless group identities?

Will the Armed Forces of the United States fight to uphold, defend, and advance the cause of Multi-Culturalism?

This is not a frivolous question.

The questions before us are serious, and legion. We are virtually drowning in what we call "issues," and they are becoming increasingly difficult to sort out. How do we find our position? And, once we find our position, how do we argue its merit? Above all, how do we avoid the plague of serious matters turning into bogus soap operas?

We asked you to hear me today, because the Center for the American Founding has a proposal to submit. We call it "Four Points of the Compass" because these points provide direction, because—in a manner of speaking—they constitute a re-calibration of our compass which the events of the past

thirty years have distorted. They are the Rule of Law, Individual Rights, the Sanctity of Property, and the sense of National Identity. As you have seen, they are interconnected, they literally flow from one another, just as the false compass-points which have come to displace them—social justice, group rights, redistribution and multi-culturalism—are interconnected and flow from one another. What is multi-culturalism if not a redistribution of cultural "goods?" What is redistribution if not a group right? What is a group right if not the implementation of some political activist's version of "social justice?"

For thirty years, we have acquiesced in a steady erosion of America's founding principles. The time has come to reverse the movement. Rather than contending with countless individual issues, all we need to do is take the debate down a few notches, closer to the core. Let me repeat: we need to take the debate down a few notches, close to the core. We submit that all future policy and legislative initiatives be tested against the four points of the compass. Does the proposed bill negate the Rule of Law? Does it violate individual rights? Does it interfere with the sanctity of Property? Does it constitute an assault on National Identity? Only if the answer is "No" in each case, would the proposal proceed. In other words:

Only if the answers are NO is the bill a GO.

A few items need tidying up. How do we know what the Rule of Law can accommodate, and how far do we take individual rights? The answer, in both cases, comes from Article VI of the Constitution. "This Constitution, and the laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof * * * shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby * * *" It is as uncomplicated as that.

In the coming months, we intend to approach the citizens of this great nation and their representatives at all levels with a call to consider adopting this approach. We will hold panel discussions and town meetings so as to invite, engage and incorporate the wisdom and experience of Americans everywhere. There will be retreats and, by year's end, there will be a book with all the details. We do not underestimate the magnitude of the step we are proposing, but we honestly believe that it will make life a great deal easier. With a simple stroke, it will become clear that one cannot take an oath upon the Constitution and support group rights. One cannot take an oath upon the Constitution and support the confiscation of property without compensation. One cannot take an oath upon the Constitution and support measures which are clearly at odds with the mandate for national defense.

We cannot have it both ways. We have to choose our compass and remember the four points. They are, as we have seen, inseparable. Therefore: Only if the answers are NO is the bill a GO.

I do not believe that last November the people of this country voted for the lukewarm bath of bi-partisanship. I believe the people of this country said: If you don't give us a real choice, we won't give you a real election. Yes, people probably have grown tired of the "issues," but they are, I am certain, eager to partake in an effort to choose either a return to our original path, or a clean and honest break with the past.

Those who feel that the time has come to change the supreme law of the land should come forward, say so, and engage in an open debate. But let us not continue a pattern of

self-delusion. We are heirs to a remarkable group of men who, two hundred plus years ago, had every reason to feel similarly overwhelmed by the number of decisions they had to make. Their response was to make very few laws, for they knew that the fewer the laws, the broader the agreement. They knew people find it hard to agree on everything. So they sought agreement on core principles they held to be non-negotiable.

Today, we propose the four that ought to be non-negotiable. They are, as we have seen, inseparable. We call them the four points of the compass. Together, they can and will restore America's sense of direction.

HONORING MORRIS TISCHLER

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, it is extremely fitting that in honor of Valentine's Day tomorrow I rise to honor the work and outstanding record of achievement of Morris Tischler. As the inventor of the cardiac pacemaker, Mr. Tischler has done more than any other individual to keep the human heart ticking throughout the world.

Morris Tischler, who we are fortunate to have as a resident of the great city of Baltimore, has made medical history. In addition to his pioneering work in developing the pacemaker, he has been instrumental in designing instrumentation for heart surgery, monitoring systems, a nerve stimulator, a blood analyzing monitor, among other innovations.

As a teacher, consultant innovator, inventor, and businessman, Mr. Tischler has charted new territory in the field of medical electronics. In his desire to save lives, he has been generous in sharing his knowledge and expertise with the medical community around the world through lectures and visits.

Born in Newark, NJ, Mr. Tischler attended the Johns Hopkins University and graduated from the University of Maryland. An outgrowth of his research at Johns Hopkins University and the University of Maryland has been his pioneering work in science education. He has used his talents to develop and design educational materials and training programs that have been used in teaching science and electronics in elementary and secondary schools, colleges, universities, and technical schools. He has succeeded in his goal of simplifying very complex systems as an aid to teaching.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Morris Tischler, a true Renaissance Man, on his outstanding career as inventor, teacher, innovator. His energy and creativity have made medical history and helped save millions of lives around the world. His contribution to the field of medical science has set an example of dedication and caring that is hard to match.

THE NATIONAL PARKS CHECKOFF ACT

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I have reintroduced the National Parks Checkoff Act today. The National Parks Checkoff Act will amend the Internal Revenue Code to require the IRS to place a line on income tax forms which will allow taxpayers to donate one or more dollars toward the care of our national parks. This legislation will provide more money for the care of our national parks at no cost to the Federal Government.

I introduced this bill during the 104th Congress, and I heard from a number of people and organizations from around the country who supported this legislation.

In addition, this bill had bipartisan support and it was also backed by the National Parks and Conservation Association, the American Hiking Society, the National Tour Association, American Outdoors and other organizations.

A study released by the National Parks and Conservation Association indicated that nearly 8 out every 10 people surveyed would be willing to increase their tax contribution by \$1 to benefit the National Park System.

A similar checkoff for Presidential campaigns has raised over \$200 million in the last 3 years. I believe that our national parks are far more popular than Presidential campaigns. Therefore, I think we could raise hundreds of millions of dollars for our national parks through this type of checkoff on income tax forms.

I believe there is at least one easy choice that can be made which will provide our parks with additional funding—the choice to allow taxpayers the opportunity to donate money for the care of our national parks.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting this legislation which will help us improve the quality of our national parks.

TRIBUTE TO LYDIA MALDONADO DIAZ

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I want to introduce my colleagues to Lydia Maldonado Diaz. Ms. Diaz reflects the type of community commitment and civic duty that our society desperately needs.

After residing in New York City for 32 years, she and her husband moved to the community of Cypress Hills, Brooklyn, where she was confronted with a host of illegal activities. Lydia joined the local block association and began to make a difference.

Today, Lydia is actively involved in the Community Coalition to Restructure P.S. 76, an abandoned school building on her block, and she has presided as the chairman of that organization.

For 24 years she worked for the Cornell University Cooperative Extension as a com-

munity educator; a position from which she retired in April 1995. Throughout her personal and professional pursuits, Lydia has been guided by her strong spiritual convictions. She is the proud mother of four adult children, and the grandmother of six. I am pleased to recognize her positive contributions to the Brooklyn community of Cypress Hills.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CHILD PASSENGER PROTECTION ACT

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing the Child Passenger Protection Act which would prevent injuries to children in motor vehicles and ultimately save lives through improved child passenger education safety programs. This bill would provide grants to experienced child passenger safety organizations to carry out effective child restraint education programs.

With more than 50 different kinds of child restraint designs and numerous seat belt configurations, putting children in properly-used safety seats can be a complex process. As a result, over half of parents who are conscientious and careful enough to use child restraints are unaware that they have made installation errors, putting their young children at risk.

So many combinations of seats and car models exist that parents cannot easily figure out what is safe. A seat that works well in one car may not work well in another. Consequently, too many children riding in child restraint seats are at risk.

I have been working on initiatives to educate families across the country about the safety seat incompatibility problem. I have been working with the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) in getting the word out about the proper installation of safety seats to parents, grandparents, and anyone who transports a young child. One of my goals is to provide NHTSA with enough money to fully carry out its child passenger safety program.

I also have been working with the D.A.N.A. (Drivers' Appeal for National Awareness) foundation and its founder, Mr. Joseph Colella. D.A.N.A. was "established in memory of Dana Hutchinson, age 3, who died in an automobile accident while secured in a child safety seat."

It was a rainy day in the fall of 1994 when Dana's mother strapped her into her child-safety seat for a trip to her grandmother's house. As always, Dana's father checked to make sure that the seat was held tightly, sure that he was doing everything possible to keep his little girl safe.

Dana's mother was driving; the roads were slick and slippery. Their car collided with a pick-up truck. Dana's car seat pitched forward and her head struck the dashboard. The police report stated an opinion that her child safety restraint was improperly secured.

Dana's father, looking for an answer, called his local dealership and was told that everything he did was correct. Then he looked in

his owner's manual. After pages of information he found the answer: the seatbelt system in their car was incompatible with their child safety seat.

Joe Colella is Dana's uncle, and it is through his tireless work and the establishment of the D.A.N.A. foundation that efforts are being made to alert the public about the compatibility and misuse problems that exist between child restraints and vehicle seat belt systems.

I am pleased to introduce the Child Passenger Protection Act, which I call "Dana's bill," and I am committed to continue working with Joe Colella and with NHTSA to encourage parents to properly use child restraints to protect our Nation's children.

ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, we are here today to honor the 50th anniversary of Americans for Democratic Action.

Fifty years ago, just after the end of the Second World War, Eleanor Roosevelt gathered with some of America's top leaders and thinkers to discuss the state of liberty, equality, and opportunity in America. From that meeting, Americans for Democratic Action—our ADA—was born.

Some people may not be aware of ADA. They may not be able to recall the succession of ADA's leaders. But every American has seen the results of dedicated ADA work.

In 1948—less than a year after it was founded—ADA was instrumental in including a civil rights plank in the 1948 National Democratic Party platform.

At that 1948 convention, then Minneapolis Mayor Hubert Humphrey and later a distinguished U.S. Senator and Vice President—an ADA founder and vice chairman—called for "the Democratic Party to get out of the shadows of States' rights and walk forthrightly into the bright sunshine of human rights."

While we are still walking toward that bright sunshine of human rights, we are all safe in the knowledge that it was the 1948 Democratic platform—and the work of ADA—that helped put national politics on the path of civil rights achievements.

ADA built upon that achievement, demanding action from President Kennedy after dogs and hoses were used on peaceful marchers in Birmingham, AL, in 1963. Soon, Rev. Martin Luther King's march on Washington captured the entire Nation's attention. And, in 1964, the Civil Rights Act was passed.

ADA's work has not been limited to civil rights. Americans for Democratic Action has long been the champion of what is fair and what is just.

In 1965, ADA was the first major national organization to publicly oppose the Vietnam war. Beholden to no political party, Americans for Democratic action stood up to President Johnson and called for an end to the war. Unfortunately, it took the Nation more than 8

years and thousands of lives to finally put an end to the fighting in Southeast Asia.

In 1973, as much of the Nation was still discovering just how serious the Watergate coverup was, ADA was the first national organization to call for the impeachment of President Richard Nixon—reaching out to restore the bonds of trust between the White House and Main Street America.

These are just a small sampling of the specific issues that ADA has been a leading force in. The ADA's sphere of involvement and activism goes even deeper into the everyday lives of modern America.

Americans for Democratic Action has been a leading force in areas such as full employment, women's rights, and protecting the rights of workers.

ADA has also reached across the seas, fighting for justice throughout the world. Hard-working people have led the fight for arms control and foreign policy decisions rooted in international human rights. And ADA was a leader in opposing apartheid in South Africa.

When debate on these issues first began, ADA's positions were initially turned away. But over time, our Nation's leaders—be they Democrat or Republican—have come to recognize that Americans for Democratic Action has been at the forefront of promoting liberty, equality, and opportunity.

That is why we are gathered here today. I, for one, wish to applaud Americans for Democratic Action for its tireless work during the last half century. ADA is not the flashiest group—not the first group out there jockeying for political headlines or demanding instantaneous credit.

Instead, ADA is out there fighting for American principles. ADA is promoting the very basic American ideas of life, liberty, and equality. And it is reminding those in power that the Constitution created a national Government to act for the common good.

Those core beliefs are the foundation of this Nation. And they are the high principles that Americans for Democratic Action was founded on and designed to protect.

I congratulate ADA for 50 years of work for this Nation. I look forward to even more productive years as we work toward a century of distinguished service.

TRIBUTE TO JOANNE MATEER WEAVER

HON. JON D. FOX

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding leader in my congressional district, Joanne Mateer Weaver. I make these remarks in conjunction with the retirement of Joanne from the Abington Township School District, after 40 years as a teacher, administrator, and principal.

Joanne Weaver is known throughout Montgomery County and across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for her dedication to her friends and family, her commitment to the improvement of her community and the way she cares for the children in her charge.

She was born on May 21, 1930, the first child of Kenneth Hall Mateer and Jean Weakley Mateer. Joanne's family was full of teachers and educators. Her grandmother on her mother's side was a teacher. Her uncle was a teacher, coach, and principal. And as a child, Joanne spent 1 full year in school with her mother as her teacher and her father as her principal.

Despite a childhood plagued by extremely poor vision, Joanne worked hard in school. As a result, she was consistently a top ranked student, while also active in varsity sports and school clubs.

Joanne's greatest influence throughout her life was her parents, and in particular, her father, the late Kenneth Hall Mateer. Born to a family of working poor steelworkers, Ken Mateer's ability to achieve in both sports and academics brought him statewide acclaim. At the high school in Coatesville, PA, he earned as many as five varsity sports letters each year, and captained the baseball, football, and basketball teams. In one basketball game, Mateer scored 54 points—a feat unheard of at that time. Mateer was also an outstanding scholar. He went on to earn a bachelor's degree from Shippensburg State Teachers College—Now Shippensburg University—and a master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania.

Ken Mateer went on to become a teacher and a high school coach. When Joanne was a child, Mateer's football teams won national recognition. But his heart was that of an educator. He rose to become a career principal, and later, a school superintendent. At the peak of his career, he planned and founded what is now the Great Valley School District in the western suburbs of Philadelphia.

Joanne's mother, the late Jean Weakley Mateer, was also a central figure in Joanne's life. Jean Mateer was a wife, mother, and a teacher when few women were able to balance a career and a family. Although a quiet counterpoint to the more outgoing Ken Mateer, Jean was a strong and supportive parent to Joanne. Joanne's only sibling was a younger sister, Sarah Jane Mateer, known to the family as Sally.

Joanne Weaver earned a Pennsylvania State senate scholarship to the University of Pennsylvania—an education which her family could not afford on its own. At Penn, Joanne studied hard and earned superior grades—all while working part time to defray her expenses. She also was active in her sorority and other extracurricular activities. At one point, Joanne was coeditor of the University of Pennsylvania yearbook, along with a young man who is now the senior U.S. Senator from Pennsylvania, ARLEN SPECTER.

After graduating with a bachelor's degree in education, Joanne began her teaching career in Ridgewood, NJ, a suburb of New York City. In 1955, she married Robert E. Weaver. During their marriage, Joanne and Robert had three children: Karen Elizabeth, May 25, 1958; Mark Robert, January 9, 1961; and Laurie Ann, May 2, 1964.

In the late 1950's, Joanne and her family settled in the Roslyn section of Abington Township, a northern suburb of Philadelphia. She began teaching at the Ardsley Elementary

School. By that time, she had earned a master's degree in reading from Temple University and was teaching mostly reading.

Joanne's leadership skills were quickly noticed and she gained administrative responsibilities early in her career. In the late 1960's, Joanne was promoted to curriculum specialist, this time at North Hills Elementary School. She served in this position until the mid-1970's, when she was elevated to a district-wide position, as coordinator of the district's Human Development Program—an ombudsman-type position which was used to educate staff, teachers, and students about conflict resolution, interpersonal communications, and other related issues.

Around that time, Joanne suffered two personal tragedies. Her marriage to Robert ended in divorce and her sister Sally committed suicide. These two events truly tested Joanne's character. But like so many other times in her life, she summoned the inner strength to carry on. Her resilience was a positive example to her three young children—as well as the two daughters Sally left behind. In nearly every way, Joanne became a surrogate mother to her two nieces and took it upon herself to watch out for them as they matured.

Following these difficulties in her personal life, Joanne faced significant challenges in her professional life, as coordinator of Abington School District's Human Development Program. This post—which Joanne helped create and was the first to hold—came into great importance in the 1970's. Abington High School experienced racial strife due to two unrelated deaths of Abington High School students. The district's high school campus was in an uproar and racial conflict was feared. As coordinator of the Human Development Program, Joanne led the district's response, including conducting inservice and assembly programs aimed at quelling the rumors and unrest. Her efforts were successful, and a crisis was averted. She was credited by many for helping to solve the problem.

It was shortly after this incident that Abington Township officials approached Joanne about starting a township commission to deal with potential race, religious, and ethnic strife in Abington. As a result, Joanne was appointed by the board of commissioners as the first—and to this date the only—chairman of the Abington Township Community Relations Commission, a position she still holds today.

One of the first crises Joanne dealt with in her new position was a racially motivated firebombing in the community. Acting as a mediator and working with law enforcement officials, Joanne helped calm the community while the offenders were brought to justice.

Since that incident, Joanne and her commission have intervened, investigators, and mediated in dozens of racial, religious, and ethnic incidents. Joanne has been recognized for her leadership and achievements in this area by local judges, community groups, Abington Township, and the commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

During her tenure as an administrator, Joanne found the time to teach graduate school under the auspices of Marywood College. During weekends and evenings, Joanne taught other educators the skills she honed throughout her career. Somehow, Joanne also found

the time to enroll in further graduate education herself—this time to earn her elementary and secondary principal's certificate.

By 1980, Joanne had finally taken the same path as her father, she became an elementary school principal, when she was appointed to lead the Rydal Elementary School.

Located in a more upscale section of Abington, Rydal Elementary School presented Joanne with unique challenges. Parents demanded excellence in every aspect of the school and Joanne didn't disappoint. After 8 years as principal at Rydal Elementary School, Joanne sought a new challenge. At her own request, she was transferred to Willow Hill Elementary School, located in a working class section of Abington. Joanne knew that this assignment would present completely different challenges. Joanne found that Willow Hill students were every bit as able as those from Rydal, but needed different motivation. She worked hard and helped students at her new school score record high test scores, and she improved the overall learning environment.

Last year, after 8 years at Willow Hill and 40 years as an educator, Joanne Weaver retired. Her career spanned four decades and she personally educated three different generations—in many cases Joanne taught children who grew up, got married, and had children who were also educated by Joanne.

While concentrating on education, athletics, and citizenship as her father did, Joanne taught her own children to do the same. Despite her busy professional schedule, Joanne was a warm, loving, and involved parent. Divorced in 1971, she made her role as a single parent her top priority. And her dedication shows in the lives and successes of her three children.

Her eldest, Karen, was an outstanding athlete at Abington High School, playing lacrosse and field hockey. She was an all-American field hockey player and a member of the 1980 national squad. She went on to earn bachelor's and master's degrees in physical education. Karen was also one of the first women in the United States to win an athletic scholarship.

In 1986, the college field hockey team Karen coached went undefeated and won the national championship. That same year, USA Today named her "Coach of the Year." For the next 10 years, Karen as was head field hockey coach at the Ohio State University. She is currently an NCAA scholarship consultant, helping high school players and coaches learn more about the college athletic scholarship process.

Joanne's middle child—and only son—is Mark. At Abington High School Mark played lacrosse and soccer. He went on to earn bachelor's and master's degrees in public administration from Kutztown University in Pennsylvania. For 4 years, Mark served as a communications director with the Republican Caucus of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. At night, he studied law at the Widener University School of Law, graduating and becoming a member of the bar in 1989. He received a White House appointment as Assistant Director of Public Affairs for the U.S. Department of Justice. After that, he became vice president and general counsel for a Washington, DC media consulting firm.

In 1995, Mark was appointed as the deputy attorney general of Ohio, a position he still holds today. In that job, he helps the attorney general manage a 1,200 person legal office which represents the State of Ohio in all legal matters. Mark and his wife Lori have two children—Joanne's only grandchildren—Jamieson Lindsay Weaver, January 27, 1995, and Mark Robert Weaver, Jr., June 18, 1996.

Joanne's youngest child is Laurie. Another athlete, Laurie played softball throughout her time at Abington High School. She continues to play softball in the Abington area, often leading her team into the championships. For several years, Laurie served as operations director for a successful parking company. In this role, she helped the company grow from a basement operation to one with 75 employees and a \$500,000 annual budget. She now manages a doctor's office while pursuing a full-time career as a real estate agent.

Joanne Weaver's life has been one dedicated to helping others, with little thought for herself. As a child, she spent summers living with and helping older relatives while many of her friends went to summer camp or the seashore. As a college student, she was a tireless student leader and sorority organizer. As a teacher, she spent long hours after school tutoring students who needed extra attention.

In her community, Joanne has been involved in far too many activities to chronicle. To name just a few: Antidrug programs—DARE and We Can Say No; adult education programs—Parent effectiveness training, teacher effectiveness training; African-American civic groups; police and community groups, and many others. Joanne has also been active in her church, Abington Presbyterian Church. For several years, she served as a ruling elder and she still assists with the serving of communion.

Joanne now enjoys the beach, traveling, her three cats, and spending time with her fiancé, Rudy.

Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of Joanne Weaver's retirement, I ask the members of the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating and honoring her service. I yield back the balance of my time.

HOOSIER HERO'S—ANDERSON COMMUNITY RESOURCES SUMMIT

HON. DAVID M. McINTOSH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. McINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give my report from Indiana. All across Indiana, my wife Ruthie and I have met so many wonderful, kind, and caring people. These are people who strive day and night to make a difference. In my book, these individuals are Hoosier heroes. Heroes in every sense of the word, because of their commitment to others.

Picture if you will, concerned citizens rolling up their sleeves and taking the responsibility to make their community a better place to live.

Today, I commend each and everyone involved with the community resources summit, in Anderson, IN. People like, Rudy Porter, from Mayor Lawler's office, Bill Raymore of

the Urban League, Lennon Brown, Bill Watson, and Ollie Dixon have rolled up their sleeves and got involved. These are special people.

Over a year ago, citizens who were concerned about the problems in the black community in Anderson, IN, came together to identify the concerns that plague their streets, harm their people, and impact their neighborhoods. These citizens of Anderson identified 86 areas of concern.

At a later summit meeting, those concerns were consolidated to a little more than 20 action areas. Important issues ranging from crime, violence, race, the environment, care of the elderly, safety, and education.

Citizens were asked to do more than pay lip service, but do something to solve the problems. And I'm proud to say that my staff and I joined in their effort.

We signed up for care of the elderly, and we held over 83 senior outreach meetings across the second district. We held more than 33 senior outreach meetings in Madison County.

At each meeting we answered questions and addressed concerns about Medicare and Social Security. At leadership meetings individuals signed their names to concern areas. Then they were asked to come back months later and deliver a progress report on their efforts.

What transpired, was truly amazing. The responsibility was taken seriously. Commitments were made to help others, solve problems, and clean up the streets from crime, drugs, and violence. So many special people worked day and night to help those less fortunate in Anderson.

So many wonderful people like James Burgess and Dr. William O'Neill, the assistant superintendent of Anderson community schools, have taken the responsibility to make our community a better place.

So today let me commend a few of the lead coordinators; Larry Burns with Concerned Citizens, Bruce Walker, and Rev. Louis Burgess, Jr., for their valuable time, prayers, strength, and efforts.

Everyone who participated in the community resources summit are Hoosier heroes. Mr. Speaker, that concludes my report from Indiana.

COMMENDING WESLEY, BROWN & BARTLE'S FINDINGS ON MINORITY EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, despite the heated controversy and, at times, unfortunate rhetoric surrounding the plight of women and minorities who must strive for career advancement, I am pleased to report that Wesley, Brown and Bartle finds America's leading corporations continue to maintain diversity employment practices.

Almost 2 in every 3 Fortune 100 companies (62 percent) responding to a survey by Wesley, Brown and Bartle Company, Inc. have hir-

ing programs dedicated to diversity and 15 percent of them tie portions of executive compensation to achieving diversity leadership goals. A year ago, when WB and B first surveyed these companies, 64 percent said they maintained such programs and 17 percent said they included compensation incentives. These percentages were almost identical to the survey results of a year ago, despite the political assault on affirmative action programs in the intervening months.

WB&B founder Wes Poriotis notes the influence of a widely circulated study by the Hudson Institute on the effects of the marketplace to changing demographics in the United States. The study concluded that in the near future, companies with workforces that mirror the demography of their customers will prevail over competitors whose workforces do not. In short, diversity hiring is good business.

Wesley, Brown & Bartle is the oldest minority-partnered international search firm. It provides senior and middle management executive recruitment for major corporations and Federal agencies. Their innovative systems for identifying and maintaining contact with managers and professionals have been utilized by many of the Nation's leading corporations, including AT and T, DuPont, Northrop Grumman, The Prudential, Toy's R US, and Union Pacific.

Wesley, Brown and Bartle is to be commended for having been in the forefront of advancing quality executives from the ranks of the Nation's women and minorities for almost a quarter of a century. I salute this firm in my district and the truly inspirational results of their quarter-century of significant and innovative achievement.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN SCHARER

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my district's most dedicated and caring public servants, John Scharer, who recently retired after more than 2 decades of public service.

John has served the city of Petaluma, CA for more than 24 years as an accountant, finance director, and, for the past 16 years, as city manager. His courage and creativity have helped to turn the city's economy around and prepare Petalumans to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Under John's leadership, the city built a beautiful 24,000 square foot community center, developed a wonderful marina and municipal airport, and converted a mortuary into a state-of-the-art police facility.

I was fortunate to have served on the Petaluma City Council for 8 years during John's tenure as city manager. Although we seldom disagreed on important issues, when we did, I never questioned John's commitment to the people of Petaluma. Through John's efforts, projects such as the Factory Outlet Village, the Auto Mall Plaza, and new industrial parks have allowed Petaluma to grow without losing its small-town charm. He also brought a Santa Rosa Junior College campus to

Petaluma and came up with the successful plan to turn an empty agricultural experimentation center into a shelter for homeless families.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay tribute to John Scharer this evening. It would be difficult to find a person as committed to the future of Petaluma as John. Petalumans owe a great deal of gratitude to him for his tireless efforts on their behalf. He will certainly be missed.

EXPLANATION OF MINK PRIVATE DELIVERY SERVICE BILL

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I have introduced legislation to provide consumers access and ease of transmission to Federal agencies where time of receipt is required to preserve a right or to meet a filing deadline. Currently, in many instances, documents required to be received by Federal agencies within a certain deadline are recognized as arriving on time by the date of postmark affixed by the U.S. Postal Service [USPS]. Such documents include grant applications, court notices, sealed bids, and several other types of official documents.

My legislation would provide the same recognition to the date affixed on such items delivered by private delivery services, such as Federal Express or United Parcel Service.

My bill uses the same definition of designated private delivery services as is used by the Taxpayer Bill of Rights II, Public Law 104-168, section 1210, which was passed by the last Congress and signed into law on July 30, 1996. This timely-mailing-as-timely-filing rule applied to filing of income tax returns has been adopted by my bill and extended to all documents filed with Federal agencies.

The date of receipt or date otherwise recorded on the item by the delivery company will constitute date of receipt by the Federal agency same as filing of Federal income taxes is deemed received by the postmark placed on the parcel or letter by USPS. With expanded delivery services now available, this procedure should be deemed applicable to these services as well.

I urge my colleagues to support my bill, to provide greater ease of compliance by our constituents in meeting filing deadlines.

HELLS CANYON NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

HON. ROBERT SMITH

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced legislation to clarify the eastern boundary of the Hell's Canyon National Recreation Area [HCNRA]. This legislation is necessary to correct an oversight that has led to the closure of an important access

route. The bill will enhance the public enjoyment of the Hells Canyon region, while preserving the ecological value of the wilderness area itself.

In 1975, Congress created the HCNRA. The recreation area abuts the eastern border of the Hells Canyon Wilderness Area, and overlooks the Snake River and the Oregon-Idaho border. A road, Forest Service Road 3965, lies along the western rim of Hells Canyon. Most of this rim road lies within the recreation area. It provides access to several hiking trails, and to the most scenic overlooks of Hells Canyon itself. Unfortunately, a 6.5-mile stretch of the rim road is now closed. Despite the clear intent of Congress, and the long-standing practice of the Forest Service, an inaccuracy in the boundary definition has led to the inadvertent inclusion of Forest Service Road 3965 within the Hells Canyon Wilderness Area itself, forcing the road's closure.

The legislative history of the 1975 recreation area legislation evinces a clear congressional intent to maintain Forest Service Road 3965, the area's most prominent scenic route. Section eight of the original HCNRA Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to evaluate scenic roads within the recreation area. During Senate consideration of the bill, it was stated that "in no case [would Recreation Area lands] go back to the rim of the gorge."

In 1978, Rep. Al Ullman (OR) successfully sponsored legislation that changed the recreation area's eastern boundary by tying it to the Canyon's hydrologic divide. For 11 years, Road 3965 remained open to motorized vehicles. Then, in October 1989, during scoping for a proposed fire salvage timber sale, it was discovered that portions of a 7-mile stretch of the road were located on the Snake River side of the hydrologic divide. Despite longstanding practice, and the well-established intent of Congress, the Forest Service was compelled to close the road. After a thorough review of this issue in 1996, Jack Ward Thomas, then the Chief of the U.S. Forest Service, wrote a letter in which he addressed the assertion that the road closure was inadvertent. He concluded that "all indications are that this is the case."

For decades, Oregon residents have traveled Road 3965 to experience the natural beauty of Hells Canyon. Congress established the HCNRA to enhance and preserve public enjoyment of this valuable resource—not to cut off access to the area. This bill will restore Congress' original intent, facilitating public access to the recreation area while preserving the sanctity of Hells Canyon itself. I urge my colleagues to support this sensible legislation.

RECOGNITION OF REVEREND FINLEY SCHAEFER

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, one of the pleasures of serving in this legislative body is the opportunity we occasionally get to publicly acknowledge outstanding individuals of our Nation.

I rise today to honor Reverend Finley Schaefer for his forty years of dedication and leadership within the Methodist religion. For over 25 years, Reverend Schaefer has served as Minister for the Park Slope United Methodist Church. Through his tireless efforts and the highest dedication to his religion, Reverend Schaefer has worked to create the most solid form of bond between all those within his congregation. The example of his high standard of commitment to the people within his church and to the people touched by his religious message is an inspiration to us all.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in wishing Reverend Schaefer all the best in his retirement from the ministry of the United Methodist Church. Even as Reverend Schaefer leaves the formal church behind him, there can be no doubt as to the joyous life which lies ahead for him and all those who cross his path.

TRIBUTE TO THE PERFORMANCE CLUSTER CHOIR

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Performance Cluster Choir and their 72nd observance of Black History Month.

The Chicago Post Office Choir reorganized in September 1994 under the direction of Carolyn Y. McQuarter. During this period of reconstruction, the choir was renamed the Performance Cluster Choir. The choir represents employees from all crafts, and includes a husband and wife, four sisters, and numerous cousins and friends.

The talent and tremendous sound of this choir has enabled them to perform at the installation of Rufus F. Porter, the District Manager/Postmaster in Chicago, and for Etta J. Williams, Postmaster in Oak Forest, IL. This gifted choir has also performed at the Annual Picnics of Alderman John O. Steele, and for the 1st anniversary of the Million Man March, celebrated at DuSable Museum.

Mr. Speaker, this choir has truly been a blessing to the Chicago District Post Office, and to the African-American community in the city of Chicago as well. I am proud to enter these words of recognition into the RECORD.

TRIBUTE TO VALDEMAR DELGADO AND BEN HOWARD FOR THEIR BRAVERY OF SERVICE TO THE CICERO POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Valdemar Delgado and Ben Howard, two outstanding individuals from my district. It was on January 8, 1997, that two Cicero police officers, Andre Van Vegten and Matthew Koman, were in need of immediate assistance and Mr. Delgado and Mr. Howard stopped to aid in rescuing the two officers from a burning vehicle.

While responding to a call of a man with a gun at 44th Street near Cicero Avenue, the officers were involved in an accident that caused flames which protruded through the hood of the patrol vehicle. At the time, Delgado and Howard were passing by and saw the flames. Without any hesitation or regard for their own safety, they immediately attended to the two officers inside the burning vehicle.

With much bravery and commendation, Delgado and Howard attempted to pry open the door of the patrol vehicle with a crowbar without success. After many attempts Delgado was able to break the window and pull Officer Koman out to safety. At the same time, Howard was able to remove Officer Van Vegten from the vehicle.

Because of their quick response and thinking, Delgado and Howard were successfully able to remove both Officers Van Vegten and Koman from fatal harm. Both officers were then taken to area hospitals for life-saving treatment. Valdemar Delgado and Ben Howard were congratulated and honored on January 14, 1997, for their heroism and bravery by the mayor and City of Chicago Council.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate and commend these two fine individuals for their bravery and selfless act. I am very proud and honored to have people like Valdemar Delgado and Ben Howard who give so much to help with the safety of our community.

TRIBUTE TO RAUL A. BESTEIRO, JR.

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in commending Mr. Raul A. Besteiro, Jr., an adjunct professor with the alternative certification program at the University of Texas-Brownsville, for his recent election to the presidency of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools [SACS]. He was elected to this position at SACS' annual gathering in Nashville, TN, in December, after 38 years of membership.

SACS is a voluntary agency, one of six regional accrediting organizations in the United States. It boasts a membership of more than 11,000 accredited public and private educational institutions, from colleges and universities to elementary schools. The organization was founded in 1895, and works with schools across the South from Virginia to Texas.

As president of this prestigious organization, Mr. Besteiro will lead the formulation of policy for accreditation of the region's member schools and colleges. He was chosen to lead this association by virtue of his hard work on behalf of schools, children, and education over the years. He has been actively involved with the association's process of ensuring that member institutions meet established standards.

There is no one who can do a better job with this great responsibility than Raul

Besteiro. Mr. B., as he is affectionately known throughout south Texas, has spent his adult life dedicated to the excellence of schools in Brownsville and to the cause of education in general. Mr. B. was an integral part of the Brownsville Independent School District from 1958 to 1989, as a teacher, an administrator, and a superintendent.

He has proven himself to be a unique educator for the community of Brownsville with the example of his life's work. That dedication to education continues within the realm of his new position. In the 101 year history of SACS, Raul Besteiro is both the first Texan—and the first Hispanic—to lead the organization.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Raul for his life's work in the field of education. I hope you will join me in wishing him well as he furthers the cause of education as the president of SACS.

AMERICAN SAMOA DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1997

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the American Samoa Development Act of 1997.

Over the past several months, I have had the opportunity to discuss with American Samoa's new Governor, the Honorable Tauese P.F. Sunia, the current economic status of American Samoa, and the direction he would like to move the territory's economy.

It is no secret that of all the U.S. insular areas, American Samoa has the weakest economy. The growing population coupled with its limited industrial base has hastened an economic downward spiral which if not checked, could result in the financial collapse of the local government. This would not be in the interests of the residents of American Samoa, the local government, or the United States.

American Samoa currently receives annual Federal assistance for both the operations of its government and for the construction of capital assets. Every elected Governor of American Samoa has attempted to develop a larger and broader economy for Samoa, but each has met with limited or no success because of Samoa's remote location, its limited transportation, and its devastating hurricanes.

To his credit, former Gov. A.P. Lutali negotiated a mutually beneficial agreement with an apparel company during his most recent term in office, and that company is now in operation and employing hundreds of American Samoans. The addition of this company gives American Samoa a total of three major businesses operating in the territory. I am concerned that with the termination of section 936 of the Internal Revenue Code, the implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement, and the phase out of tariffs under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the few trade incentives the United States has given American Samoa and the other insular areas are rapidly losing their value.

As of today, no new businesses in American Samoa, or any other insular area for that mat-

ter, can obtain the benefits of section 936. Should Federal law concerning the importation of canned tuna into the United States under the dolphin safe label be amended as proposed, I do not believe the two tuna canning plants in American Samoa will remain in Samoa beyond the end of this century. Should they leave, and I expect them to be forced to do so because of changes in the economics of international production of canned tuna, Samoa will lose fully one-third of its total economy. This will be devastating.

This legislation is a start toward addressing this problem. The commission established will be directed to examine, among other things, recent changes in trade law and the current and future impact these changes will have on American Samoa.

A TRIBUTE TO CONCORD COLLEGE, ATHENS, WV, 125 YEARS OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, on May 10, 1875, 70 students arrived at a rough frame building for the first session of classes, under the leadership of Capt. James Harvey French as principal—a result of action taken by the West Virginia Legislature to establish a branch of the State Normal School at Concord in the county of Mercer.

On February 28, 1997 Concord College will observe its 125th anniversary—celebrating one and one-quarter centuries of excellence.

This expansion of higher education was motivated by the educational reform movement of the 1870's and the need for producing qualified teachers for elementary and secondary schools. The enabling legislation provided that no State funds were to be used in the construction of the school building. Residents of the town raised over \$1,700 by subscription to erect the first building on land donated by William Harvey Martin, at the site of the present Athens Elementary School.

By 1885, the State Legislature, impressed by the service given to the State by the school, appropriated \$5,000 for a new brick building, which was completed in June 1887.

But fire was to claim the downtown location of the Normal School in November 1910, rousing a determined faculty and students to hold classes the very next day wherever they could find space throughout town. The current campus was selected as the new site, and it was purchased by the people of Athens from the Vermillion family for that purpose, only to have a second fire in 1912 that was even more damaging than the first—but again, a determined faculty and residents of the local community banded together to rebuild and rededicate Concord School.

The college awarded its first baccalaureate degree to three graduates in June 1923, and in 1931 the institutions' name changed to Concord State Teachers College.

Today, under the current leadership of President Jerry Beasley, Concord has grown to a comprehensive State college of 2,400 stu-

dents studying in Athens, Beckley, and other southern West Virginia locations. The town in which is has always been located even changed its name to Athens in 1896 in recognition of Concord's role as a center of education.

Concord College, under previous Presidents such as Cap. James Harvey French, whose early title was "Principal," to President Joseph Franklin Marsh, to President Meredith Freeman, to the excellent administration of its current President Jerry Beasley, has expanded far beyond its original teacher preparation mission—with programs of study offered in business, social work, the arts and sciences and the other pre-professional fields.

The college believes strongly in the advantages that a broad liberal arts education can add to the job preparation skills which the public now demands. In an era in which job change and career shifts are on the rise, the value of this fundamental education—learning how to learn for a lifetime—is even more pronounced.

Mr. Speaker, it is my high honor to represent the people who live in southern West Virginia—the State's third Congressional District—where Concord College was established and where it is now a thriving campus.

I take this opportunity to pay tribute to Concord College, to its faculty, students and to its many friends as it celebrates its 125th anniversary on February 28, 1997. At 11 a.m. on that date, a full academic procession will enter the Alexander Fine/Arts Center of the Athens campus for a program commemorating the college's beginning—and its future.

I join with the officials of Concord College, the newly elected Governor Cecil Underwood, the State College System board of Directors, the local delegation to the West Virginia Legislature and representatives of Concord's constituent and support groups, in congratulating Concord College for this enormous success in serving family and student needs in Athens and surrounding areas.

Mr. Speaker, it is through these kinds of lasting efforts continued down through centuries and more, that we continue to be able to improve and enhance higher education for all our people. From its inception, the local people of Athens, the students and faculty, and the enormously talented Presidents named above who served Concord from 1872 to 1997, all sharing their ideas and their ideals and acting upon them for the common good—have culminated in the highly respected and greatly loved Concord College that we pay tribute to today.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH: RECOGNITION, RESPECT, AND RELIANCE

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, as the Members know, February is Black History Month, which our Nation has devoted to recognizing and honoring the contributions and accomplishments African-Americans have made to this country. Across our great Nation, schools,

businesses, churches, and civic organizations are making a special effort to proclaim the importance of African-Americans to this Nation's progress and success.

We make this special effort for two fundamentally important reasons. First, black people of this Nation have suffered unfairly through generations of slavery and oppression. Today, I am grateful that we are working together to ensure that all people are treated equally, both in word and deed. The second reason we mark this time with Black History Month is that African-Americans have made substantive and vitally important contributions to this Nation's progress and success. Quite simply, we would be much diminished as a nation if it were not for the hard work, insight, activism, leadership, and excellence found within the African-American community.

Today, I want to focus on the pattern of black history that begins with our Nation's earliest days and ends in a future that is brighter for all of us. That pattern has three fundamental components: Recognition, Respect, and Reliance. I believe that we must recognize African-Americans for their contributions. I believe that respect for African-Americans flows out of our recognition of their importance in America. Finally, recognition and respect creates a healthy reliance on African-Americans that crosses all racial and economic groups. I stand here today in order to help move forward our efforts to recognize Black historical accomplishments, to urge respect for our African-American neighbors, and to promote a cross-racial reliance that fosters a more perfect Union.

Recognition begins with an understanding that African-Americans have made substantive and vitally important contributions to the cultural, economic, athletic, scientific, and spiritual advancement of the United States. They have been a positive factor in nearly all major events in American history and have both influenced and changed American life and culture. Unfortunately, many contributions made by African-Americans remain unknown among most Americans.

We could spend many hours exploring African-American contributions to American life. Today, I urge you to take some time and explore the remarkable achievements of African-Americans on your own. When we recognize the continuous and important impact they have had on our nation, we will agree that a future full of African-American accomplishments is a good one.

Consider the impact African-Americans have had in politics and civil rights. Of course, Blacks have always been politically active. Today, we should call special attention to Blacks who serve their nation and communities in ways unimaginable one hundred years or even fifty years ago. Blacks now serve in unprecedented numbers in elected and appointed positions at all levels of government. Mayors David Dinkins, Tom Bradley, Coleman Young, and others have had a positive impact on some of our most important cities. Douglass Wilder served as governor of my neighbor state of Virginia. In my home district, several black leaders have served on the city council, school board, board of county commissioners, community college board members, state board of transportation, nu-

merous other state boards and commissions, state legislature, and in government positions at all levels, including Congress, for many years with distinction. The civil rights advances in our nation could not have been made without these fine citizens. We must recognize the importance Blacks have in shaping our political lives.

We should also recognize Blacks for their contributions to advancing American science and technology. Blacks have been vitally important inventors and scientists from our nation's earliest days. Did you know that Onesimus, a black slave, was experimenting with smallpox vaccines in the 1720s? This pioneer of modern medicine was followed by others such as Dr. Charles Drew, who engineered blood transfusions; and Samuel Kountz, who made kidney transplants more successful. In technology, Blacks have invented the incandescent light bulb, truck refrigeration, polymer fabrics, and automated manufacturing machines used in making shoes, telephones, and other items essential to our daily lives. In space, Lt. Colonel Guion Bluford was the first Black to fly in space. Hoping to advance human services, astronaut Ronald McNair tragically died in the Challenger shuttle explosion. These individuals and many many other African-Americans must be fully recognized for their contributions to American life.

Once we recognize African-Americans for their accomplishments, we must respect them as valuable contributors to American society. In my home state of North Carolina, the African-American community emerged from the shadows of slavery to quickly take positions in government, education, entertainment, and media. The progress has not always been easy or free of hardship and danger, but the results for North Carolina include a vibrant and diverse sense of community that benefits every citizen.

Take, for example, two North Carolinians who should have our respect. First, in the early 1900's Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown founded a school for African-American children. Although she was attacked and oppressed with Jim Crow laws, her faith in God and her commitment to her community gave her the strength to ensure that her school, known as the Palmer Institute, educated Black children in the sciences, language, and culture. She received many honors, and was a friend of Eleanor Roosevelt, W.E.B. DuBouis, Booker T. Washington, and other leaders of the day. I have nothing but respect for people like Dr. Hawkins, who spend their lives committed to God and community.

There is one more person who exemplifies the sort of success that we should respect. Hiram Rhoades Revels is especially significant to me for three reasons. First, he committed his life to God and proclaiming the truth of the Christian Gospel. Second, he was born in Fayetteville, North Carolina, only 30 miles from where I was born. Third, he was the first Black member of the United States Congress. It is remarkable that his adult life spanned the Civil War, Reconstruction, and ended in 1901 during the Progressive Era. He was a true pioneer of American political life.

All the people I have mentioned today—the scientists, teachers, politicians, and every Afri-

can-American—should be respected members of our Nation.

Finally, we should consider America's future in light of the recognition and respect due African-Americans. America works best when every American can act responsibly, work well, and live in a safe community. When Black History Months ends, we must not end the recognition and respect earned by African-Americans. Our recognition and respect for African-Americans leads to a reliance on African-Americans for their valuable contributions to American life.

Today, there are nearly 400,000 African-American children in the North Carolina public schools. We must work together to ensure that their future is full of success and opportunity. Through the efforts of their forebearers, this Nation has come closer to fully understanding our Declaration of Independence: That all men are created equal under God and are entitled to the opportunity for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. For many years, these words rang hollow to African-Americans. Let us be wise enough to now recognize their accomplishments, respect their value to society, and rely on them to be equal members in the great work of this Nation.

And may we remember the words of Adlai Stevenson, who was the Democratic nominee for President in 1956, this year I was born, when he said:

Trust the people, trust their good sense, their decency, their faith. Trust them with the facts; trust them with the great decisions; and fix as our guiding star the passion to create a society in which no American is held down by his race or color, by worldly condition or social status from earning that which his character earns him as an American citizen, as a human being as a child of God.

TRIBUTE TO DANYCE HOLGATE-WILKINS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, the Borough of Brooklyn is blessed with a tremendous resource of talented citizens who are dedicated to improving their community and making it a better place to live. Danyce Holgate-Wilkins is one of those dedicated citizens. She was born and raised in Brooklyn, and received her undergraduate degree from Stony Brook University, and her law degree from Howard University School of Law.

Since obtaining her law degree, Danyce has worked in a variety of capacities, including a clerkship with the Honorable Judge Bruce Wright, in addition to working in the law firm of Gaston and Snow in Boston, MA. She also has worked as an assistant corporation counsel for the city of New York.

Danyce is involved in a host of local political endeavors, in addition to serving on the board of the Association of Black Woman Attorneys. Additionally, she is a member of the board of the Tri-Community Development Corporation, and the Parent Teacher's Association.

Danyce is married to William Scott Wilkins and is blessed with two wonderful children, twin girls, Danah and Danielle.

TRIBUTE TO FRANK DEL OLMO

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, it is with utmost pride that I rise today to recognize and honor one of this country's finest journalists—Mr. Frank del Olmo—as he celebrates 25 years of service at *The Los Angeles Times*.

For over two decades, Frank has written for Los Angeles' award-winning daily and has delivered more than just a story and a byline.

Frank began his career at *The Los Angeles Times* as an intern in 1971 and was hired as a reporter upon completion of his apprenticeship. After spending a year reporting local news, he soon became a staff writer specializing in Latin American affairs—a stint which lasted nearly 10 years and distinguished him as one of the best writers at his hometown paper.

Frank rose to the rank of editorial writer and held the position for 9 years before beginning his 6-year tenure as deputy editor of the editorial pages. Today, Frank is assistant to the editor at *The Los Angeles Times*. He holds the highest position of any Latino at the newspaper, and he continues to be one of the few high-ranking Latinos in newspaper management in the country.

Frank has earned a reputation for being a journalist with integrity—a risk-taker who knows how to thread the needle—a man confidently anchored as much in his words as by his deeds.

Perhaps one of the most defining moments in Frank's career was born in a dissenting opinion he wrote a few years ago while deputy editor of the editorial pages. When *The Times* issued a gubernatorial endorsement with which he strongly disagreed, Frank put his pen to work despite the brewing tension that many believed might lead to his permanent departure from the paper. For Frank, expressing his opinions publicly was a matter of conscience. He could not sit back while the official *Times* opinion so offended California's ethnic and immigrant communities. His efforts brought him greater respect from journalists in the newsroom; and management fully realized the talents and crucial voice that Frank brings to its pages.

As assistant to the editor, Frank continues to write an insightful column for Sunday's opinion page, and he has greater input in what the paper will run each day. Frank earned this responsibility because he worked hard, because he was vigilant on behalf of his paper and his principles. He earned it because he dared to speak his mind—legitimately, constructively.

The quality of Frank's work over the years has earned him public acclaim. In 1991, he was a co-winner of *The Los Angeles Times* "Editorial Award" for pieces written on the Rodney King/LAPD/Darryl Gates case. In 1984, Frank received the prestigious "Pulitzer Gold Medal for Meritous Public Service" for a series of articles on Southern California's Latino community.

While Frank is highly regarded in the Los Angeles newsroom where he has worked for

over 20 years, the story is no different outside the newsroom.

Frank, the highest-ranking Latino at The Los Angeles Times, serves as a role model for Latinos and other minorities, especially young aspiring journalists. His commitment to advancing the lives of young people and desire to see more Latinos blaze the journalist path inspired him to join with his colleagues to establish the California Chicano News Media Association (CCNMA) nearly 25 years ago.

Today, the 500-member organization serves as a valuable resource for working journalists and aspiring journalists alike. Frank was a principal architect in the designing of the summer high school journalism workshops that are synonymous with CCNMA. The workshops allow participating students to acquire—through one-on-one training with professional journalists in actual newsrooms—the necessary tools to report the world.

From covering the local beat as a rookie reporter, to reporting the violence and bloodshed of civil disturbance in Central America, to writing commentaries and helping students, Frank has surpassed the expectations and standards of a journalist. In a time when so many take liberty to belittle and bash members of the media, it is with great pleasure that I honor Frank today and share a piece of his life with you.

Mr. Speaker, as friends and associates gather to congratulate Frank for his 25 years of outstanding work, I ask that my colleagues and my country join me in saluting this exceptional individual—An individual who is a tremendous journalist and an active community leader—an individual who, until I memorialize it in writing, may never understand just how proud he makes so many of us feel.

Mr. Speaker, Frank del Olmo is a humble and thoughtful man who carefully conceals the passion and determination of a warrior. He is most deserving of our words of tribute. How I only wish that my pen would sing like his.

CONGRESSIONAL TERM LIMITS
AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill joint resolution (H.J. Res. 2) proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States with respect to the number of terms of office of Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives:

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to express my support for term limits.

When our Founding Fathers drafted the Constitution, they envisioned a citizen legislature of the people, not a lifeline for career politicians.

Congress ought to be an institution that encourages individuals to come to Washington for a short period of time and subsequently return back to their local communities.

By enacting term limits we will return the power of Government back to the people, which is exactly where it belongs.

In my opinion, our current system fosters a class of professional politicians who entrench themselves in office by utilizing the powers of incumbency.

Let's put politics and bickering aside for a day and pass meaningful term limits legislation on a bipartisan basis.

Seventy-five percent of all Americans support term limits. Twenty-four States have approved term limit measures.

It's time for us to put the people back in charge and restore our constituents faith in Congress as an institution.

We can do this by sending a clear signal that the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate will no longer be home to the out of town and the out of touch.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of term limits today.

TRIBUTE TO EVELYN DUBROW ON
THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT
AFTER 40 YEARS OF
SERVICE ON BEHALF OF AMERICA'S
WORKING FAMILIES

HON. THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Evelyn Dubrow, whose ceaseless advocacy on behalf of the American worker has spanned four decades and has been a catalyst for positive change in American society.

Evy Dubrow began her adult life as a journalist but soon became one of the leading voices in the labor movement. After serving as secretary of the New Jersey chapter of the American Newspaper Guild during the 1940's, Evy was hired by the International Ladies Garment Worker's Union [ILGWU] in 1956. Shortly thereafter, Evy was sent to Washington by the ILGWU where she lobbied for passage of many progressive initiatives. Through the Sixties, Seventies, and Eighties she worked closely with the leadership of both parties in support of a more labor-friendly agenda. In the Seventies, in honor of her tireless dedication, then-Speaker Tip O'Neill assigned Evy her own chair outside the House Chamber doors.

Evy Dubrow came to Washington a diminutive political novice, but will leave behind a legacy of the greatest stature. During her tenure on the Hill, Evy pressed for greater access to health care, family and medical leave, raising the minimum wage, and "Buy American," long before they became fashionable causes. Over the years her intelligence, gentility and charm have allowed her to gain access to a veritable Who's Who of the Congress. Never one to threaten or cajole, Evy trusted her firm grasp of the issues and friendly disposition to get her point across.

When Evy arrived in Washington there were only three other women lobbyists on the Hill and Dwight Eisenhower was in the White House. Over the span of her long career, Evy has received more honors than time permits me to list here today. Although she is retiring from her official post as vice president and legislative director of the ILGWU, her love for

our institution and her enduring legacy will live on in the Halls of Congress. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Evelyn Dubrow's dedication to improving the lives of America's working families, and her contribution to the culture of politics, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring this truly deserving woman.

**LOU GAMBACCINI; DEPARTURE
FROM SEPTA**

HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of my good friend Mr. Lou Gambaccini, as he retires from his position of general manager of SEPTA. For 8 years, longer than any other general manager, Lou Gambaccini served SEPTA with dedication and distinction.

Lou Gambaccini inherited a system in 1988 wrought with numerous problems that required quick and decisive action. He rose to this challenge and set forth to combat an aging infrastructure system. Lou provided the necessary guidance to move SEPTA in a positive direction. Due to his accomplishments, Lou is held in high regard within the national transportation community. He is one of the Nation's most renowned proponents of increasing our Federal commitment to mass transit.

SEPTA quickly moved into the area of infrastructure renewal and repair under Lou's tutelage. Projects were prioritized so that scarce resources were not unwisely depleted. Efficiency was the key element to these projects, reducing time and money spent. Beginning in 1988, SEPTA has engaged in numerous reconstruction projects, including the Frankford Elevated Reconstruction Project [FERC], RailWorks, Norristown High Speed Line, Overbrook Rail Maintenance Facility, Midvale Bus Depot, and the purchase of 400 new buses and 220 new cars for the Market-Frankford line.

The work completed on the Frankford Elevated Reconstruction Project is an amazing demonstration of Lou's leadership and insight. Lou managed this \$750 million reconstruction without any major disruption of service for the community. Thanks to his efforts, the Frankford El is a vital resource for the constituency of northeast Philadelphia.

Lou moved SEPTA into a new era in which critical dedicated funding could be counted on by organizing the Southeastern Pennsylvania Area Coalition for Transportation [ACT]. ACT is a group of 70 leaders from both traditional and nontraditional transit proponents, representing various constituencies. This group has become a model throughout the Nation for other transit supporters.

Frequently faced by inadequate operating budgets, Lou Gambaccini streamlined operations to cover million dollar gaps and increasing costs. Reacting to budget crises with creative solutions and proactive programs, he succeeded in meeting budget demands with the least amount of disruption possible.

Under Lou's guidance, SEPTA employees have become focused on creating a system that is service-friendly and propelled by its

customers. During his tenure, service has improved tremendously with resourceful new need-based routes, as well as a major decline in violent crime on the system.

Serving as a leader to the Nation and the industry, Lou Gambaccini demanded that SEPTA become an agency where real equal opportunity exists. The upper management affirmative action initiative has achieved its goal of producing a middle and senior management workforce more balanced in its representation of females and minorities.

In his unprecedented term of 8 years as general manager of SEPTA, Lou Gambaccini has turned SEPTA around and sent it into the future on the right track. He has displayed perseverance and ingenuity when challenged. SEPTA is now in a position where it will have the ability to continue improving in the future and adapting to the changing needs of the community.

As general manager at SEPTA, Lou Gambaccini displayed the type of commitment and insight necessary for success, and he will be missed and remembered. I wish him the best of luck in the coming years.

**PROMOTING A TRADE PARTNER-
SHIP WITH THE CARIBBEAN
BASIN REGION**

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I want to draw my colleagues' attention to two articles on United States/Caribbean relations that have appeared in the New York Times over the past few months.

The articles document a gradual erosion of the United States/Caribbean economic and trade partnership. Over the past few years, in focusing our attention on domestic issues and on other foreign policy matters, we have inadvertently neglected an area of the world that remains critically important to our own strategic and commercial interests.

The Caribbean Basin is our 10th largest export market and one of the few regions in the world where our firms consistently post a trade surplus. As home to the Panama Canal and to the major access routes for ships entering the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean is a vital gateway for many agricultural and manufactured goods. Finally, sitting astride the major transit routes of illicit narcotics from South America to our shores, the Caribbean serves as the front line in our defense against drug traffickers. As we have seen too many times—even in the last decade—destabilization and economic loss in the Caribbean often echoes loudly in the United States.

In recognition of the strategic importance of this region, I expect to reintroduce legislation that will aim to restore the vital United States/Caribbean economic partnership that was fostered through the Caribbean Basin initiative. That legislation will ensure that the United States/Caribbean economic relationship is not inadvertently diminished by the relationship we are now fostering with Mexico under the NAFTA. Moreover, the legislation will provide

a roadmap to help prepare our Caribbean partners for the challenges in the next century, including membership in the planned Free Trade Agreement of the Americas (FTAA).

In the meantime, I would ask my colleagues to take a few moments to read these articles to gain a better appreciation of the current state of United States/Caribbean relations and a more thorough understanding of a substantial problem that the United States must address.

[From the New York Times, Jan. 30, 1997]

**BACKLASH FROM NAFTA BATTERS ECONOMIES
OF THE CARIBBEAN**

(By Larry Rohter)

KINGSTON, JAMAICA. Three years after the United States, Canada and Mexico agreed to become a single market as part of the North American Free Trade Agreement, their exports to each other are booming. But here in the Caribbean, the economies of America's much smaller neighbors are reeling from the impact of that success and finding it nearly impossible to compete.

From the apparel plants of Jamaica to the sugar-cane fields of Trinidad, NAFTA has already resulted in the loss of jobs, markets and income for the vulnerable island nations of the region. The capital and investment projects that are vitally needed for future growth, officials say, are increasingly flowing out of the Caribbean Basin and into Mexico.

"The stark reality is that Mexico can now export its products to the United States free of duty, which makes it more profitable for producers to operate from there," Seymour Mullings, Jamaica's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, said in an interview here. "Putting it very simply, if that is not stemmed, it could do untold damage to our manufacturing sector and economy as a whole."

NAFTA's devastating effect on the Caribbean was widely forecast before the treaty's passage in 1993 and Washington suggested it would cushion the blow by extending similar trade preferences to the island nations.

However, the Clinton Administration's proposals to give the Caribbean "Nafta parity" have twice foundered in Congress in election years and now face an uncertain future in a new Congress that has decidedly mixed feelings about the benefits of free-trade agreements.

The Caribbean now exports more than \$12.5 billion worth of goods to the United States annually, and a recent study by the World Bank estimates that more than one-third of that total could be shifted to Mexico if the existing trade rules remain in effect.

The region's once-flourishing apparel sector has been hard hit, officials say. In the last two years, more than 150 apparel plants closed in the Caribbean and 123,000 jobs have been lost "as a direct result of trade and investment diversion to Mexico," according to the Caribbean Textile and Apparel Institute, which is located here.

Textile manufacturing had been one of the Caribbean's few economic bright spots. Between 1980 and 1995, Jamaica's garment exports, primarily underwear and hosiery, rose from less than \$10 million a year to nearly \$600 million annually, an average annual growth rate of 28 percent.

Since NAFTA took effect in 1994, Mexican textile exports have grown at a rate three times those of the Caribbean as a whole. In 1996, the Caribbean Textile and Apparel Institute estimates, Jamaica's garment exports fell by 7 percent, with 7,000 jobs eliminated.

Similar or even larger decreases were recorded in Guyana, Belize and tiny St. Lucia.

More than 600 people, about 95 percent of them women, felt the effects of Nafta when the Youngone Garment factory on Marcus Garvey Drive here closed just before Christmas. The plant had been making T-shirts for export to the United States. But a Mexican factory took the business away with a lower bid, prompting the Korean company to shut down operations in Jamaica and send its employees home. The company then shipped its equipment off to Bangladesh.

"I lost my job back in '95 and haven't been able to find another one since," said Beryl Davidson, 26, a former textile worker and single mother of three small children. "I couldn't pay my rent, and I couldn't feed my kids, so I've had to move back in with my parents to survive."

"But my cousin in Brooklyn tells me there's plenty of work there, so maybe I will join her," she said.

Since Nafta went in effect, the creation of new jobs in this nation of 2.3 million people has stopped altogether and overall unemployment has risen to 16 percent from 9.5 percent, according to the Statistical Institute of Jamaica. Among women working in the apparel sector, the unemployment rate is now more than 33 percent.

Worse yet, the loss of jobs and American support occurs as the pro-American Government here, with an election due sometime in the next year, is completing an economic retrenchment that had been strongly urged by Washington. Over the past decade, Jamaica has sold off state companies, reduced the budget deficit and increased foreign reserves, but at a high social cost.

"We have no safety net here, no welfare, no Medicare," said Anthony Gomes, director of a large trading company. "So when people go to the street, it has a serious ripple effect. The way things are going, jobs are very difficult to get, and that is not helping our crime rate."

American officials, however, argue that Jamaica and other Caribbean nations are blaming Nafta for deeper-rooted economic difficulties that will remain even if trade rules are eventually eased. In the case of Jamaica, they maintain, those include a revaluation of the currency that increased its value by 12.5 percent last year, making the country's products more expensive, and a host of regulatory obstacles.

"The main problem here is government bureaucracy," one official said. "It is darn near impossible to collect the licenses and approvals you need to get a business off the ground."

Ironically, Jamaica's initial export surge was the result of another American program, the Caribbean Basin Initiative, which the Reagan Administration put in place 15 years ago. A package of aid, trade and investment incentives aimed at the private sector, the program was intended to introduce the Caribbean to what Mr. Reagan called "the magic of the marketplace," and had Jamaica as its centerpiece.

But that arrangement has also benefited the United States. American exports to the region rose 160 percent in the decade ending in 1995, to more than \$15 billion a year. The Caribbean is the only part of the world where Washington recorded a favorable balance of trade every year during that time.

The Caribbean Basin Initiative still exists, but places either duties or quotas on those products in which Caribbean nations enjoy a competitive advantage, such as sugar, textiles and footwear.

"All we are asking is to be put on a level playing field with Mexico," said Paul Robertson, this country's Minister of Industry, Investment and Commerce. "We are not seeking a handout, but only the opportunity not to be prevented from taking full advantage of the North American market."

[From the New York Times, Oct. 24, 1996]

CARIBBEAN NATIONS FIND LITTLE PROFIT IN AIDING U.S. DRUG WAR

(By Larry Rohter)

BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS.—Hoping for American gratitude and assistance, the English-speaking countries of the eastern Caribbean have in recent years devoted larger portions of their meager budgets to fighting drug trafficking. But now, to the dismay of many in the region, the United States is responding with a policy of economic retrenchment.

Legislation to give Caribbean countries the same free-trade benefits as Mexico and Canada has been shelved in Congress, and a little-noticed provision of the minimum-wage bill that President Clinton signed in August eliminates Federal tax incentives to encourage low-interest loans to the region. Also, the two sides are in a bitter dispute over export quotas for bananas, the back-bone of most economies in the area.

"What is the message being sent?" Keith Mitchell, the Prime Minister of Grenada, asked. "It is that our friends are abandoning us, that the rug is being pulled from under us, that we are being told we must sink or float on our own."

The scaling back of Washington's economic commitment comes with the region's re-emergence as a favorite transit zone for cocaine and heroin traffickers. Caribbean countries are largely cooperating with anti-drug efforts, United States officials say, and their leaders are clearly rankled by what they see as a lack of American economic support.

"We've surrendered our sovereignty," James Mitchell, Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, said at a recent meeting of the Caribbean Americas Business Network in Miami. "We've given the U.S. all the cooperation in the world. What else do they want?"

American officials acknowledge some of the complaints, but they also say that eastern Caribbean nations have passed up opportunities through membership in regional lending institutions to ease their economic dependence on Washington.

For their part, leaders of the 14 nations making up the Caribbean Community, a regional economic association known as Caricom, have been urging the Clinton Administration to grant them trade parity with Mexico and Canada, the United States' partners in the North American Free Trade Agreement.

But Congress adjourned this month without taking action on the measure, which was intended to supplement the largely moribund Caribbean Basin Initiative created by the Reagan Administration.

In a report last month, the Council on Hemispheric Affairs, a Washington-based research group, attributed the delay in action to "partisan and special interest opposition" in Congress. The council said American legislators were wary of offending fruit lobbyists.

Caricom leaders say they need access to free trade to help compensate for a drop of nearly 90 percent in American economic assistance to the region over the last decade, from \$225 million to \$26 million. In August, a provision in the new minimum-wage law

ended tax breaks for American corporations doing business in Puerto Rico.

At the same time, Washington is challenging the traditional system of trade preferences that allows many Caricom nations to export their products to European nations either duty free or at vastly reduced tariff rates. One such proposal, which Caribbean leaders say could cripple the region's banana industry, is now before the World Trade Organization.

"It seems shortsighted and baffling," said Frank Alleyne of the Institute for Social and Economic Research at the University of the West Indies. "What about the cost in social unrest? If they succeed, drug cultivation will increase, mark my word. Farmers must find another crop, and that crop is marijuana."

RECOGNIZING JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation recognizing the Juneteenth holiday as the day of celebrating the end of slavery in the United States. Although slavery was officially abolished by the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, it took over 2 years for news of freedom to reach all the slaves. On June 19, 1865, Gen. Gordon Granger rode into Galveston, TX, and announced that the State's 200,000 slaves were free. Vowing never to forget the date, the former slaves coined a nickname for their celebration—a blend of the words "June" and "Nineteenth." Though Juneteenth celebrations originated in the Southwest, they soon spread throughout the South and are now celebrated throughout the Nation.

As we celebrate Black History Month, it is appropriate to recognize this significant moment in American history. Juneteenth Independence Day is an important and enriching part of our Nation's history and heritage and provides an opportunity for all Americans to learn more about our common past.

TRIBUTE TO GEN. BILLY J. BOLES

HON. RICHARD BURR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. BURR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gen. Billy J. Boles for his long and distinguished service to his country in the U.S. Air Force. I always consider it a great privilege to have the opportunity to recognize the achievements of a member of the U.S. armed services. These Americans dedicate their lives to the protection and preservation of our freedom, and all too often, we neglect to adequately express our gratitude to them for the sacrifices they and their families gladly make for the sake of our Nation. I take particular joy in this occasion because General Boles is a native son of King, NC in my district.

On April 1 of this year, General Boles ends a 35-year career replete with honors and distinctions that took him through posts in Mississippi, Texas, Washington, DC, and Vietnam. During the majority of his tenure, the Air Force assigned to him one of the most challenging and important duties in the armed services—recruiting and accessing Air Force personnel and training them to become the best pilots in the world. In a very real sense, the Air Force entrusted General Boles with its future.

After receiving his Bachelor of Science degree at N.C. State University in 1961, General Boles completed his military training at the Squadron Officer School at Maxwell AFB in Alabama, the Armed Forces Staff College in Norfolk, VA, and the National War College at Fort Lesley J. McNair here in Washington DC. He then went to his first post at Keesler AFB in Mississippi. In September 1962, he began his career as a military educator when he became an instructor and assistant course supervisor in the Personnel Officer Course at Greenville AFB in Mississippi. General Boles' service also includes two assignments in Vietnam. First, from July 1965 through October 1965 he served with the 6250th Combat Support Group and from October 1966 through June 1967 he served at the 7th Air Force Headquarters both at Tan Son Nhut Air Base in South Vietnam. General Boles' career then took him through several important positions including Director of Personnel Programs at the U.S. Air Force Headquarters here in Washington, DC from June 1987 through June 1988 and Vice Commander of the Air Education and Training Command Headquarters at Randolph AFB in Texas from April 1995 through June 1995.

On July 1, 1995, the Air Force promoted Billy Boles to general and made him Commander of the Air Education and Training Command Headquarters where he has served ever since. His command consists of 13 bases, 43,000 active duty members, and 14,000 civilians and includes two numbered Air Forces, Air University, Air Force Recruiting Service, and Wilford Hall Medical Center. In addition to the tremendous responsibilities General Boles fulfilled over his career, he also found time for his family which includes his wife, Kay, and their son, David, who also serves in the Air Force as a lieutenant.

Over his 35 years in the Air Force, General Boles earned many major awards and decorations including the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, the Air Force Organizational Excellence Award with four oak leaf clusters, the National Defense Service Medal with service star, and the Vietnam Service Medal with four service stars.

All of his life, General Boles dedicated himself to excellence in every task he undertook. Born to a tobacco farming family in the Mount Olive Church community of King, NC in Stokes County on July 27, 1938, young Billy Boles grew up in an environment that stressed hard work and dedication. By age 14, he grew his first tobacco crop on his own. While working hard on the farm, he also found time to

participate in scouting through his membership in Boy Scout Troop 102. Religion also played an important role in his career, and he became a member of Mount Olive Baptist Church by baptism on October 10, 1948.

During his school years, Billy Boles never rejected an opportunity to work or to learn. He attended North Carolina Boys State at UNC Chapel Hill in 1955, and in addition to going to school and farming, he worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a tobacco acreage measurer. At King High School, Bill Boles' activities included Glee Club, Junior Marshall, Vice President junior and senior year, and salutatorian. Originally planning to work for R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. after graduation, encouragement from teachers and friends prompted him to apply to and attend N.C. State University where he enrolled in the ROTC program that launched him on his distinguished military career.

While I feel a small amount of sorrow that the young men and women in our Armed Forces will lose a great leader like General Boles, I also feel confident that his great accomplishments as an educator and trainer have helped ensure the future of the Air Force for years to come. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my personal gratitude to Gen. Billy Boles for the great sacrifices and service he gave to his country over his long and distinguished career. Finally, on behalf of my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives as well as a grateful nation, General Boles, we say thank you.

CONGRESSIONAL TERM LIMITS AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 12, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill joint resolution (H.J. Res. 2) proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States with respect to the number of terms of office of Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak in opposition to the rule on House Joint Resolution 2, reported out of the Rules Committee on yesterday. There were a total of 19 amendments that were considered by the Rules Committee: 14 by Republicans and 5 by Democrats. This unequivocally points out the division in the House on this issue; not just between Republicans and Democrats, but between Republicans who support term limits and a good number of those who do not.

I must point out that even the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Congressman HYDE, does not support this amendment.

Mr. Speaker, I am not in favor of Members of Congress deciding who the American people should and should not vote for.

However, it is my position that if we are to have a constitutional amendment on term limits, it should be the people who make that in-

dividual choice. It will be the people who are most affected by this amendment to the Constitution, so why not let the people decide if they want term limits.

Mr. Speaker, the two amendments that I proposed would have done just that. The first would have given the States the power to prescribe the maximum number of terms for a particular State. This would have allowed a State to tailor its limits to the needs and the will of the people of that State.

It was a compromise amendment which allowed the States that wanted term limits to have them and the States that did not want term limits to reject them.

It is evident that we can not adopt different versions of an amendment to the Constitution. But we can allow the States to adopt their own versions of term limits.

The Supreme Court, in *U.S. Term Limits* versus *Thorton*, has made it clear that, without an amendment to the Constitution, the States do not have the authority to impose term limits on Members of Congress.

Consequently, now that we are in the amendment phase of creating a solution for the issue of term limits, the argument can be made that this is a power that should be given to the States. The legislatures of each State have an inherent local interest in developing a term limits solution for their particular State.

The States are now prepared to make a decision of term limits. Twenty three States have passed proposals affecting Members' terms of office. These States legislatures are now poised to take action. Why not let them take action on an amendment that would give them the power to decide the maximum number of terms for their Members.

My second amendment went one step further than State action empowerment. It gave the power of ratifying a term-limits amendment to the people of the individual States.

It allowed the individual voters of each State to come together using the convention process to vote on whether they wanted to ratify this constitutional amendment.

In keeping with the spirit of the Founding Fathers of our great country, this amendment lets the American people decide who will represent them in the Congress of the United States and for exactly how long.

Article V. of the U.S. constitution prescribes the ratification methods that may be used in ratifying an amendment to the Constitution. It may either be by the legislatures of three-fourths of the States or by conventions in three-fourths thereof.

The Founding Fathers granted Congress the power to decide which mode of ratification of an amendment to the Constitution may be used.

Mr. Speaker, there is a time such as this, in deciding an issue which will fundamentally change the nature of the Congress, that it would behoove us to consult with and defer to the American people.

The convention process allows us this opportunity. It allows for the American people to speak to an issue and to participate in the shaping and defining of that issue.

There is no doubt that in this democracy, the ratification of an amendment to the U.S. Constitution, utilizing the convention method, is by far the most democratic. The people of

the United States would have the opportunity to participate in a process that is fundamental to the American way of openness and inclusion. The voters of America would have the opportunity to unquestionably validate this amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

In doing so, this will not be the first time that an amendment to the Constitution was ratified by conventions in three-fourths of the several States. The 21st amendment to the U.S. Constitution, in section 3, provides for ratification by conventions in the several States. Section 3 of the 21st amendment states:

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by conventions in the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of submission hereof to the States by the Congress.

This 21st amendment, which repealed the 18 amendment prohibition of intoxicating liquors was ratified on December 5, 1933. Delegates in 25 States were elected in statewide at-large elections, delegates in 14 States were elected by congressional districts and 4 States used a combination of the two.

Laws providing for ratifying conventions were passed in 43 States and 16 of these States passed permanent statutes for future referrals of amendments. Clearly, this was a democratic effort by the people of the United States.

I must note that the very Constitution by which we have authority to sit and do the business of the American people was ratified by the convention method. Article VII, of the U.S. Constitution states:

The ratification of the conventions of nine States shall be sufficient for the establishment of this Constitution between the States so ratifying the same.

If the convention method of ratification was good enough for the ratification of our great Constitution, then the convention method of ratification must be good enough for amending this same Constitution.

If the supporters of term limits were genuine about the concerns of the American people, they would have voted for these two amendments.

I submit to you, Mr. Speaker, that they are not genuine. The rejection of these two amendments, each of which would have given the decisionmaking authority to the States and to the voters, reveals that the people who are trying to push term limits down the throats of the American people only are genuine about taking power away from the voters of America.

Consequently, I urge my colleagues not to vote in favor of this rule.

FLAG PROTECTION AMENDMENT REINTRODUCED TODAY

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, along with the other sponsors of the constitutional amend-

ment to prohibit the burning and desecration of the American flag, I am so proud that today we are reintroducing the flag protection amendment. This continues the grassroots effort to once and for all put an end to the disrespect and desecration of the symbol of our country—Old Glory.

With the support of fellow Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle, the dedicated members of the Citizens Flag Alliance—consisting of over 100 veterans and civic organizations, many of whom are represented here today—and 49 State legislatures, we are confident we will finally be able to restore the long overdue protection to Old Glory we see flying above us today.

Ever since that tragic day in 1989 when 5 men in black robes said it was OK to burn and destroy our blessed flag, we have attempted to amend the U.S. Constitution to prohibit such desecration but have fallen short of the necessary two-thirds vote in both the House and Senate. But now we are within reach of that goal, and today marks the beginning of the grassroots push to get at least 290 Representatives and 67 Senators to sponsor our legislation which will guarantee its passage.

There are still those who will maintain that burning the very symbol of our Nation is simply an expression of speech. I for one, as well as all of you, take such an expression much more seriously. Such an act is purely a denunciation of the very spirit, principles, and system of government under which we enjoy our freedoms and opportunities. After all, the flag, being the very symbol of American freedoms and ideals, ought to be protected with the same vigor with which we protect the very freedoms and rights it represents. To that end, burning this blessed symbol is purely a crime against the State.

In our opinion, we ought to view the flag as a national monument and treat it with the same degree of reverence. As we look around ourselves today, we are surrounded by symbols of our freedom and the system of government so many have fought to protect. Standing here we gaze upon the Washington Monument, a beacon honoring the wisdom and dedication of our Founding Fathers. Beyond that lies the Lincoln Memorial and behind me, the U.S. Capitol, recognized throughout the world as the very symbol of democracy. In fact, throughout this city there are countless representations of our culture and ideals. However, no single one embodies America, or what it is to be an American, like this lone glorious symbol. Yet, vandalizing these monuments would be unconscionable and considered a disgraceful crime, as well it should. Therefore, it is only appropriate our flag receive the same exceptional consideration.

For those who doubt the symbolism of the American flag, we need only look throughout the world, at where it is and where it has been, to understand its significance. Right now, our distinguished flag acts as an ambassador of freedom and opportunity to those who suffer under oppressive regimes such as the ones found in Cuba, North Korea, and the People's Republic of China. For others who

have seen their freedom usurped and continue to be threatened by overly ambitious dictators, like the people of Kuwait and Taiwan, the American flag stands as a reminder of a compassionate ally.

Why is Old Glory of such significance to people throughout the world? We need only reflect upon where our flag has been to understand why this symbol is held in such high regard worldwide. For instance, an early version was carried at the Battle of Saratoga in my district, the turning point of the Revolutionary War, and the beginning of our flags association with the rights of free people over authoritarian regimes.

It was flying over the U.S.S. *Arizona* that infamous day when it was so tragically blown up and destroyed at Pearl Harbor. Later, that same war, it was raised triumphantly over the island of Iwo Jima, a scene which undeniably represents the supremacy of freedom and democracy over oppression and tyranny. Furthermore, it marks the graves of brave soldiers of freedom like those just across the Potomac in Arlington, to the overlooking the beaches of Normandy on the other side of the Atlantic, to those halfway around the world on the Philippine islands. What better reason to protect this symbol of America.

All that is required now, is for each of us to draw upon this patriotic fire and do all we can to effect this demanded change to our Constitution. It is only appropriate that this, our most sacred document, include within its boundaries, a protection of the flag, our most sacred and beloved national symbol.

An active grassroots campaign is already in place under the tireless efforts of the members of the Citizens Flag Alliance. However, we need to get the message to all Americans to contact their Congressman and urge support of this resolution. Outside the beltway, 49 State legislatures, including my home State of New York, have already passed resolutions urging Congress to pass this constitutional amendment. In the 104th Congress, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed a similar amendment by a vote of 312 to 120. That same amendment fell just three votes short of passage in the Senate.

Today, we are introducing an amendment to empower Congress—instead of Congress and the States, as we did in the last Congress—to prohibit the physical desecration of the American flag. This represents an effort to broaden the support for this amendment. It is also entirely appropriate that Congress be the sole legislative body responsible for protecting our national flag.

Addressing the despicable maltreatment of our national symbol is close at hand ladies and gentlemen. All it takes is a little more hard work to get the message to your Congressman and ignite the American spirit lying within all of us.